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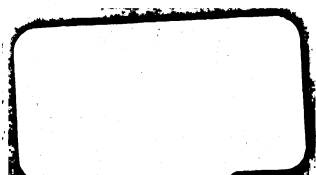
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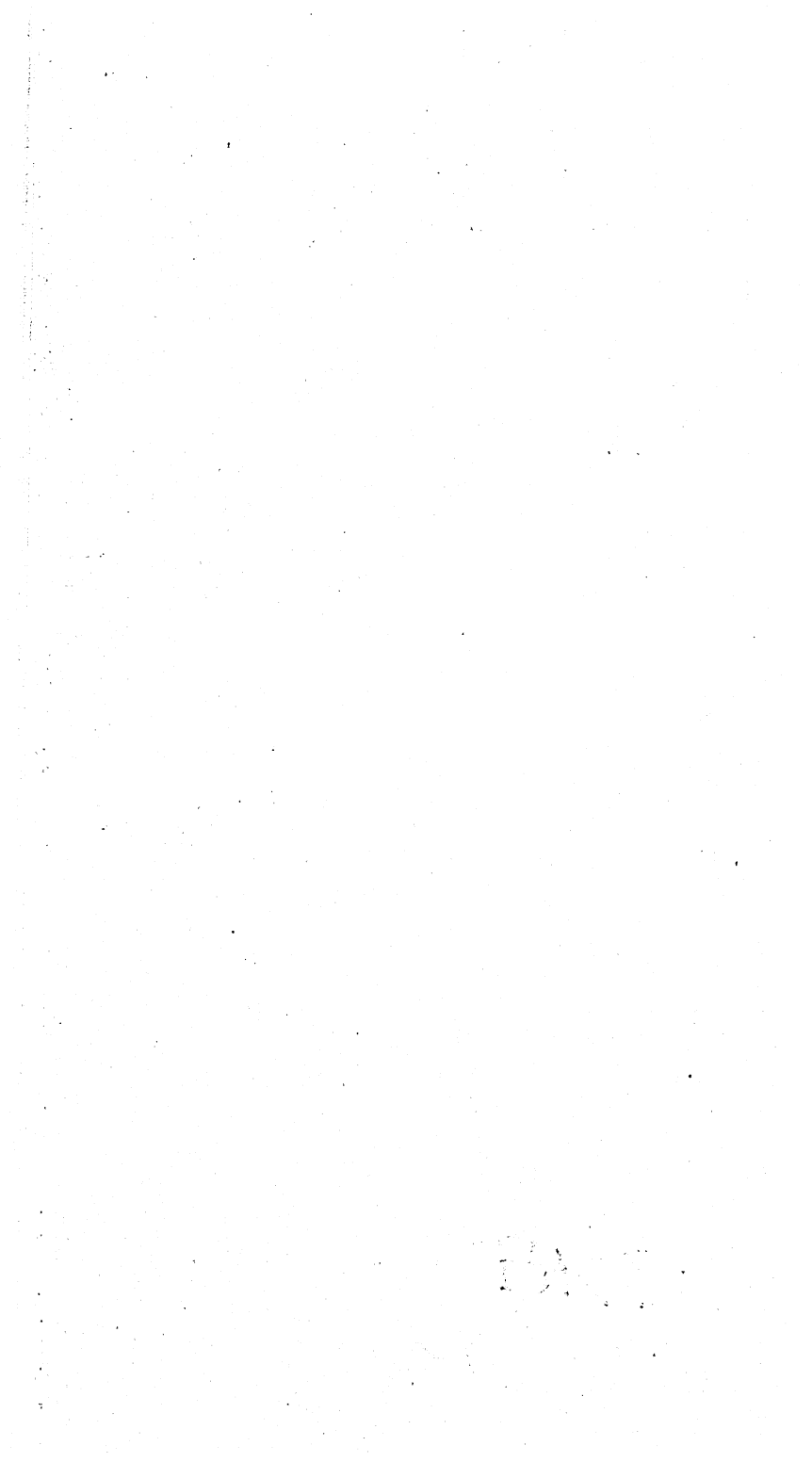
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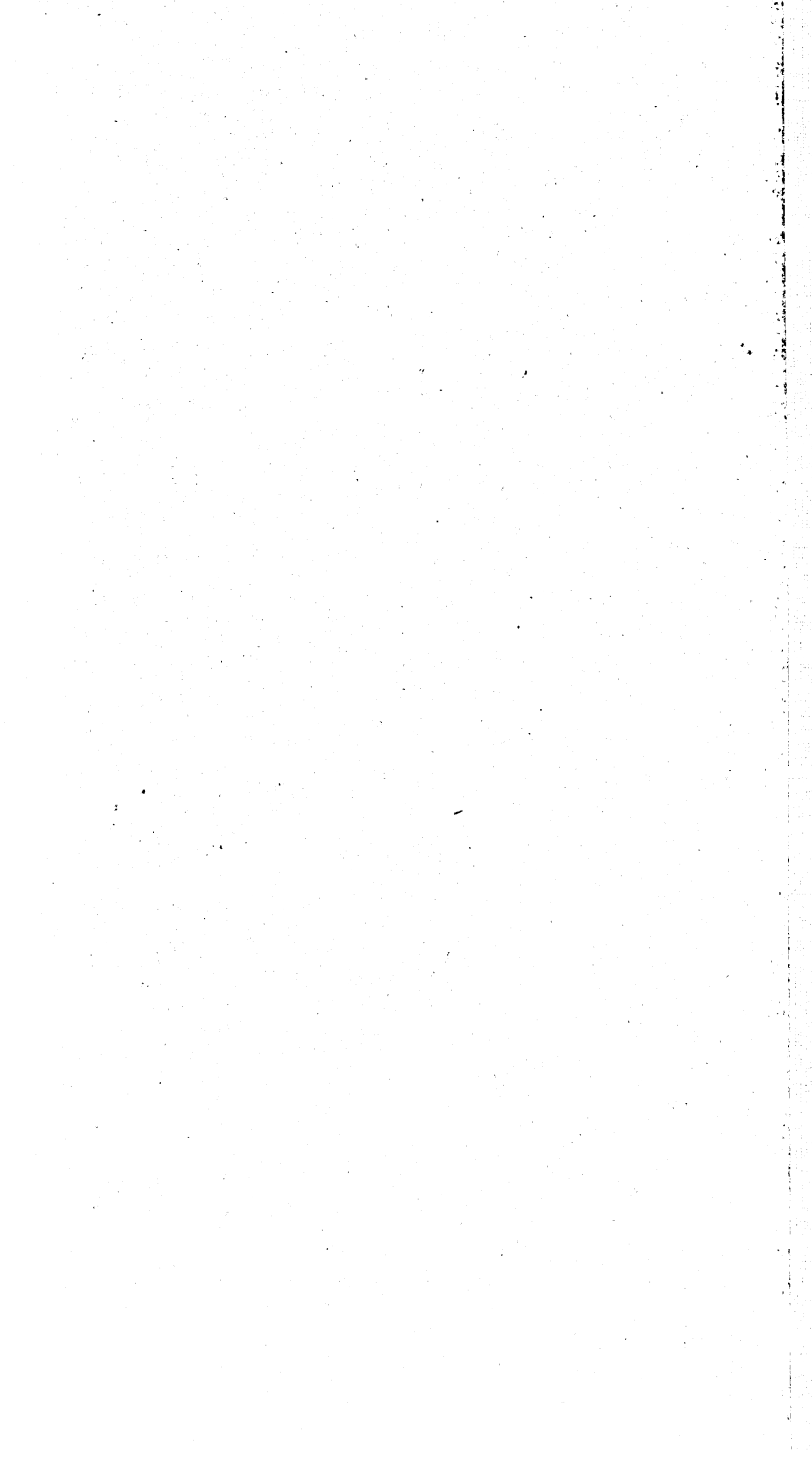


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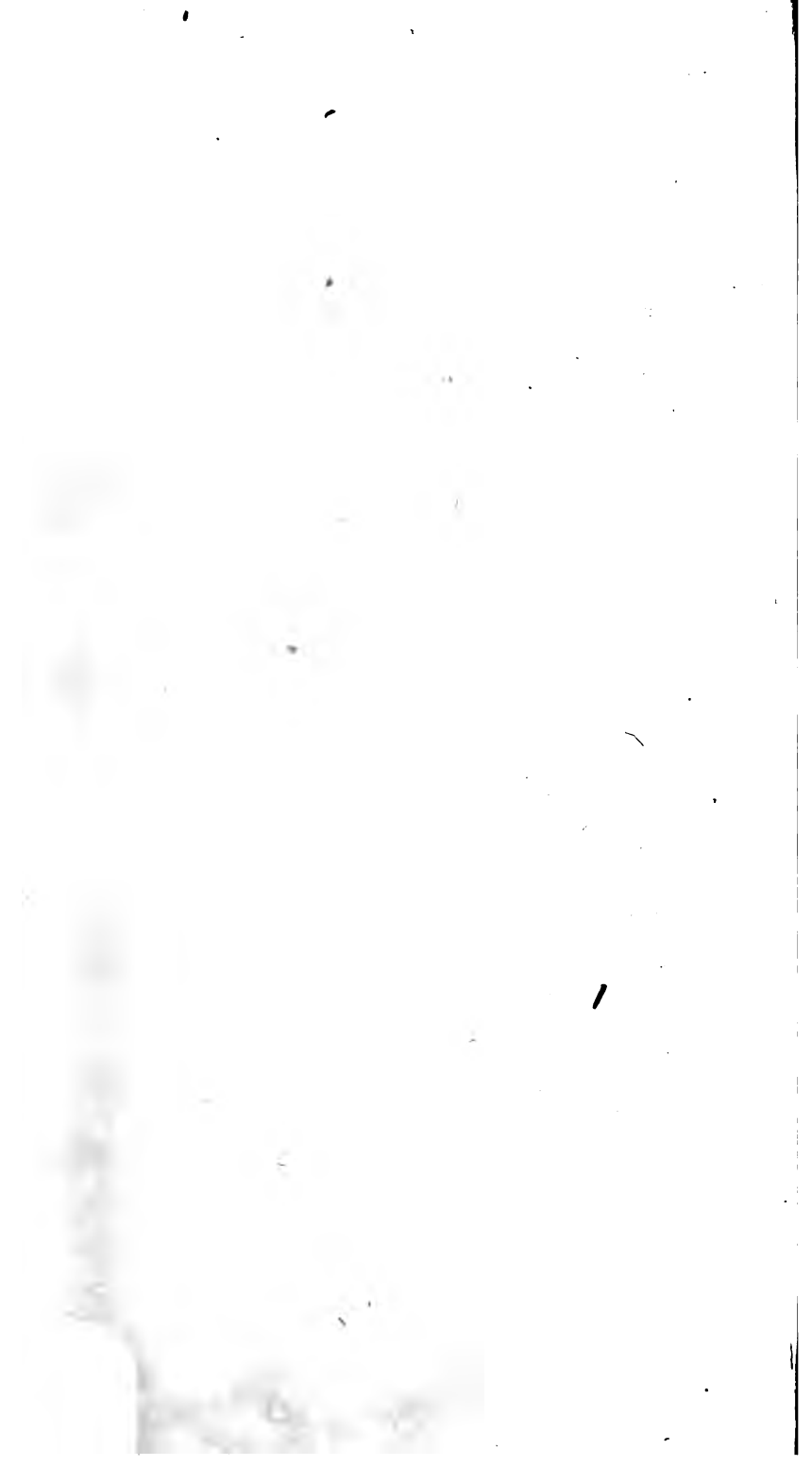






AN

ACCOUNT OF TUNIS.



Tunis-Description 1811
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AN

ACCOUNT OF TUNIS:

OF ITS

GOVERNMENT, MANNERS, CUSTOMS,
AND ANTIQUITIES;

ESPECIALLY OF ITS

PRODUCTIONS, MANUFACTURES,
AND COMMERCE.

BY THOMAS MACGILL.

GLASGOW:

Printed by J. Hedderwick & Co.

FOR

LONGMAN, HURST, REES, ORME, AND BROWN,
LONDON.

1811.



NEW YORK
PUBLIC
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NOV 1971
1971
1971

PREFACE.



AT a moment like the present, when the tyrant of France, and scourge of Europe, is studying by every art, to ruin the commerce of Great Britain; it appears to me, to be a duty incumbent on the subjects of His Majesty, to lay before their countrymen, whatever knowledge they may possess, either tending to the extension of our commerce, or our influence.

Under this impression, I have put together, in the best manner my abilities would permit, the following information respecting the commerce and politics of the princedom of Tunis.

My object was commerce, and not pleasure, when I left Malta for Tunis; but finding the business I went upon, detain me much longer than I expected, I endeavoured to make the best use of my time, in gathering such information, both commercial and political, as my situation offered and circumstances put in my power. From the consuls and chief men in the country, with whom I had much opportunity of conversing, I drew my political information; and from the mercantile people and leading brokers, I collected my commercial information.

These being my motives, I make no apology for submitting my observations to the public. My first wish is to be useful to my country, and if, in the present instance, I have succeeded, my recompence is complete.

ACCOUNT OF TUNIS.

CHAP. I.

The Revolutions which have happened in the Regency of Tunis, since the Beys took into their hands the Reins of Government.

No records being kept in a government so unsettled as that of Tunis, it is impossible to trace back its history, with any degree of certainty, to a period much exceeding a century and a half.

It is now about one hundred and seventy years, since the Beys usurped the government of Tunis; since which period, it has undergone

many changes and revolutions, and has more than once been again in the hands of the Deys. Indeed, until the flight of the Dey Mahamed Cheleby, who was dethroned by the brothers Mahamed and Aly Bey, the government of the Beys was never firmly established; but these brothers formed it into an hereditary monarchy.

Mahamed Bey was the first who enjoyed this authority, but his power was not of long duration. The Dey of Algiers, at the head of a powerful army, advanced against him, laid siege to Tunis, and obliged Mahamed to fly from his capital. The Dey then (Sept. 1689) placed on the throne of Tunis, Ahmed Ben Chonquesc.

Mahamed Bey having succeeded in gaining to his party the Arabs on the frontiers, advanced against Ahmed, gained many advantages over him, and in his turn laid siege to the capital, of which he soon made himself master; and Ahmed took refuge with his friends the Algerines.

Mahamed now (July 1695) established his authority, which he maintained until his death.

Ramadan Bey succeeded his brother Mahamed. The mildness of his temper, made him for some time enjoy a reign of repose and tranquillity. But this suavity of character was ill suited to the times, and to the people amongst whom he dwelt, and became, ultimately, the cause of much misfortune. His nephew Mourat Bey, son of his brother, the deceased Aly, impatient to mount the throne to which, by right, he was to succeed, profiting by the mildness and indolence of his uncle's character, formed a party against him, took him prisoner, and put him to death.

The reign of Mourat Bey, which was only remarkable for cruelties and other crimes, was too long for the well-being of the state. He was at last assassinated by the hand of Ibraim Cheriff.

The branch of Mahamed Bey being extinct by the death of Mourat, Ibraim, without

difficulty, got himself proclaimed Bey, by the Divan and soldiery.

Ibraim was taken prisoner in a battle with the Algerines, and the army chose in his place Assen Ben Aly, son of a Corsican slave, who had renegaded.

A new dynasty commenced by Assen Ben Aly. He enjoyed his power with little interruption, through his own good conduct, and the able support of his subjects.

The new Bey immediately perceived that he was not secure, while his rival Ibraim was in life. This consideration led him to try various arts and intrigues, to draw Ibraim within the reach of his power. He at last succeeded by proclaiming publicly, that "he only held as in deposit, the authority of Ibraim, and only waited for his presence, to abdicate the throne in his favour." Ibraim deluded by this apparent submission, immediately came to Biserta, where Assen (January 1706) arrested him, and put him to death.

Assen Ben Aly reigned in great peace and quiet; and nothing was wanting to his happiness, but an heir to his throne. But with this blessing, notwithstanding his numerous wives, he was not favoured. He, therefore, determined to name his nephew Aly Bey, who, for some time, had been commanding his camps, to be his successor.

In this state matters continued for some time. At last, a young Genoese girl, who had been brought into slavery by a corsair of the Bey, being appropriated to the harem, engaged the prince's affections, and proved with child by him. As soon as he was sufficiently convinced of her situation, he assembled a meeting of his Divan, to whom he communicated the glad tidings; and put the question to them, "whether, if she brought forth a male child, they would consider him as his legal successor? Though, at the same time, he confessed, that all his arts and solicitations had proved insufficient to convert her to their faith." The Divan were of opinion, that they could not consider as their prince, the son of a Christian slave.

By various means, however, Assen at last gained them over to his purpose. She at length bare a son, who was named Mahamed Bey: and afterwards she brought forth two other sons, who were named Mahmoud Bey, and Aly Bey.

Assen now having three heirs to his throne, sent for his nephew Aly, and informed him, that as heaven had been pleased to change the face of affairs, he could not now leave him his throne, but that still his friendship for him would continue as before. As a proof of this, he sent to the Porte, and purchased for him the title of Pasha of Tunis, a title, at that time, of great respectability.

The young Bey submitted to the will of his uncle, and appeared satisfied with the honours which had been procured for him, and also took the title of Aly Pasha. But he affected a content which he did not feel; his ambition was sorely hurt; yet he cloaked, with apparent submission, the deep designs which he had formed. He beheld the sceptre which he had so long swayed in idea, about

to pass into other hands; and at length unable to bear a disappointment which so galled his pride, he fled to the mountains of the Osselites. There he put himself at the head of a strong party which he had secretly formed, and marched to attack his good uncle.

Assen informed of the treachery and ingratitude of his nephew, drew out his troops, attacked him, put his little army to rout, and obliged him to take refuge in Algiers.

Aly Pasha, during his exile in Algiers, by flattering promises gained over the Algerine government to favour him. They afforded him the assistance he desired. By this he obliged Assen to quit his capital; and gaining a complete victory over him, (1735,) forced him to take refuge in the mountains of Kieronovan.

In consequence of these civil wars, famine desolated the country. The fugitive prince was forced by it to abandon his retreat in the mountains, and to take up his residence

at Sussa, a port in the eastern part of the regency. Here the captain of a merchant vessel, named Barillon, lured by flattering promises of reward, should the Bey's fortunes take a happier turn, supplied his wants and those of his followers. But his affairs looking day after day more desperate, Assen sent his family to Algiers, the common retreat of the unfortunate Beys of Tunis, intending soon to follow himself. In his flight, he was however discovered by Younes Bey, son of the Pasha, who immediately, and with his own hands, cut off his head.

Aly Pasha, thus freed of his most dangerous enemy, flattered himself with the enjoyment of a peaceful reign. In this he was however deceived, for his tranquillity was soon disturbed by the dissensions which took place in his own family.

Aly Pasha had three sons, for the second of which, named Mahmed, he had a strong predilection. Mahmed formed the design of supplanting his elder brother Younes in the succession. For this purpose he alienated

the affections of his father from him, and by his reasonings so far worked on his feelings, that orders were given to arrest Younes, under pretence of some private machinations against his father. Younes being on his guard, took refuge in the castle of Tunis, called the Gaspa. The troops of Aly marching against the castle, Younes fled to Algiers.

Mahmed, with the ruin of his elder brother, did not finish his shocking work. A younger brother remained, and him he poisoned. The Divan then declared Mahmed presumptive heir of the throne. Thus, imagining himself secure, he prepared to enjoy the fortune which his crimes seemed to have procured; but the scene soon changed.

The city of Algiers, at this period, experienced one of those revolutions so frequent in countries which are governed by military power. A new Dey was chosen, and the vote fell on Aly Cheavreaux, a Turk, who, on a former occasion, had been sent on an embassy to Tunis. Here he had received an

affront from the haughty Younes, whom he now beheld an exile, reduced to the necessity of imploring his protection. The Dey had now the opportunity of revenging the affront he had not forgotten; and refusing to listen to the entreaties of Younes, he resolved on espousing the cause of the sons of Assen Ben Aly. He, therefore, sent an army under the command of the Bey of Constantine, to establish them in that government which had been wrested from the hands of their father. Victory crowned their enterprise. They entered the city of Tunis, took the Pasha prisoner, and immediately administered to him the bow-string. The elder son of Assen was now, (1753,) with all formality, declared Bey of Tunis, and homage was paid to him under the title of Mahamed Bey.

Mahamed Bey, was a young prince of an amiable disposition. He, unfortunately, only reigned during two years and a half, leaving (1756) two sons, Mahmud and Ismail Bey, still in their tender years.

Aly Bey, brother of Mahamed, now mounted the throne, under the promise of resigning it whenever the eldest of his brother's children should be of sufficient age to hold the reins of government. However, the desire of reigning, and of continuing the government in his own family, led Aly to disregard his promise. On the contrary, he sought by every means, to place his nephews on the back ground, and to bring forward to the eyes of the people, his own son, the young Hamooda. He bestowed on him the command of his camps, and solicited for him from the Porte, the title of Pasha. This he obtained through the interest of the Christian ambassadors at Constantinople, whom he had gained over to his views.

In this manner, Aly secured to his son the respect and suffrage of the people. And the young Hamooda, by his arts, gained so complete an ascendancy over the spirits of his cousins, that, at the death of his father, in the year 1782, they were the first to pay him homage, as Bey of Tunis, and voluntarily withdrew themselves from all pretensions to the government.

At no former period did the state enjoy such tranquillity as under the government of Aly; and since that period, it has suffered from no kind of revolution. Those who might be supposed inclined to revolt, are so comfortable under the Bey Hamooda, who will appear, by the character of him which follows in the next chapter, to be a man of penetration and resolution, that they would not hazard the risk of a reverse of fortune.

The remembrance of past misfortunes, and the spectacle continually before them, of the troubles in Algiers, occasioned by the turbulent and over-bearing spirit of the Turks, has proved to the Tunisine, the propriety of keeping them at a distance from the government. Hamooda has gradually withdrawn from them that part, which during his father's reign, and the commencement of his own, they had in their hands; and has put into their places, persons more devoted to his interests, selected from his Georgians, and others in his confidence. Thus, the government of Tunis may be considered as no longer Turkish.

CHAP. II.

*An Account of the Present Bey of Tunis,
Hamooda Pasha.*

THE present Bey of Tunis, named Hamooda Pasha Bey, was eldest son of Aly Bey, who left besides him, two sons and five daughters. Hamooda Pasha Bey was born about the year 1752; and on the death of his father, mounted the throne in 1782. Hamooda Bey is a man of a handsome, shrewd, and penetrating countenance; he is possessed of very good natural talents, and considering his extremely limited education, his judgement is tolerably enlightened. He reads, writes, and speaks, the Arabic and Turkish languages, and also speaks the "Lingua Franca," or Italian of the country.

It is observable, that Hamooda Bey, from great practice, added to a considerable portion of natural sagacity, has a wonder-

ful facility in penetrating into the characters of those who approach him. In reasoning, he is keen and quick; seizes the principal points of the argument, and judges with precision and wisdom. He is no stranger to the art of dissimulation; which he can practise to its full extent, when occasion requires it. No actor can play his part better.

In the art of governing, he cannot be supposed to possess any of those qualities which render men great in European states, where governments are on an extensive scale: and he appears not to have any of those noble or expanded ideas, which bespeak a great mind. As an instance of this, he still continues to follow the wretched policy of eastern courts. He must, therefore, be considered as a barbaresque prince, who governs a state without any knowledge of that policy which directs enlightened nations. Considering him in this light, we must give him the praise of ability; for he certainly holds a tight rein of government, and acts with such a degree of firmness, as to keep under all intrigues or civil broils in his country.

The state of Tunis never was on so respectable a footing as it is at present; and the subject never before enjoyed such independence and protection from external enemies. The troops of Hamooda, such as they are, are better paid than those of any former prince; and though they are more like a band of free-booters, than a regular army, yet they are sufficient to keep in check, his enemy, the Algerines, who are certainly no better.

Since Hamooda Bey mounted the throne, no attempt capable of giving him much uneasiness, has been made to wrest the sceptre from his hands. He lives on friendly terms with his cousins, the rightful heirs; with his brother, and with his nephews. A son of Younes Bey, who took refuge in Algiers, signified a wish to reside at the court of Tunis, and even came to Biserta. The Bey sent a guard of honour to meet him, clothed him sumptuously, and brought him to live in his palace at Bardo. This prince resided at Bardo for several years, during which time, the Algerines, who are the na-

tural enemies of Tunis, seduced him, and in an unhappy moment, he entered into a seditious and rebellious correspondence. This treachery being discovered, though only a few years ago, he suffered by the bow-string.

The brother of the Bey, who lives constantly at Bardo, is on the most intimate footing of friendship with him; and both he and the nephews, who also, with their wives and families, live at Bardo, ride out with him, and partake of all his amusements. But as revolts are common in these countries, the Bey finds it prudent that they should live under his own eye, and never leave the palace without his permission.

Hamooda has no issue; for, although several sons have been born to him, they have all died in their infancy. It is still uncertain which of his nephews will be named by him for his successor. He has four nephews, two by his brother, and two by one of his sisters, all of whom are nearly of the same age; although none of them have reached the age of majority, they are all married, and have families.

It is generally supposed, that the eldest son of the brother will become successor. He is a young man of a tolerably good natural disposition, but has not shown any marks of superior abilities. None of the other young men show half so much prudence as even he, and neither of the four possess, in any degree, the talents of their uncle.

Hamooda has several wives, but passes little time in their society. A few years ago, a Christian child of eight years of age, was brought into slavery. The Bey was struck with her beauty and promising talents, and declared his intention of marrying her; as soon as she should arrive at maturer years. She was sent with her mother to the house of one of his renegadoes, a man of great talents, who received orders to pay attention to her education; but the malignant fever which raged a short time after, carried her off. The Bey was much affected at this misfortune, and has never since shown any inclination to fall in love. But many fine Georgian youths, are said to be sacrificed to his vices.

In the early part of his life, Hamooda was as much inclined to worship the god Bacchus, as to follow the rules laid down by the prophet. He was much addicted to the use of wine; and his palace had more the appearance of being the seat of a northern, than of an oriental prince. His slaves, who had not the same injunctions laid on them by their religion, indulged him in his excesses, and became his companions in riot and revelry. Great outrages were committed by them, when under the influence of wine; but a circumstance which happened during one of his debauches, about ten years after he came to the throne, had a salutary effect on the conduct of this prince.

One night, as they were over their cups, a noise was heard in the court-yard below; with impatience the Bey demanded the occasion of it; and finding that it proceeded from some people of the Dey of Algiers, who were also making merry; he ordered his late prime minister, Mustafa, who was a sensible man, to have them immediately strangled. The prudent minister, who is

still much spoken of, received the order, but contented himself with putting the poor fellows in prison; telling the prince that he had been obeyed. In the morning, when the fumes of the preceding night's debauch had begun to subside, the Bey inquired after the Algerines. Mustafa reminded him of the order he had given the night before. Almost frantic, Hamooda asked if it had been obeyed? Mustafa answered in the negative; for which the prince thanked him; and since that time he has never tasted wine nor strong drink.

From avarice, and a mistaken idea in the art of governing, it must be confessed that Hamooda oppresses his subjects; and that by engaging himself in commercial pursuits, he prevents them from trading with that spirit which they would display, if they had not to contend with their prince.

Wherever his interest is concerned, whether in public or in private disputes, the Bey is extremely partial in his judgement; but where that is not concerned, he decides with wisdom and equity. Formerly, the gover-

nors of districts oppressed the people under them with impunity. At present, the peasantry have free access to their prince, and receive ample satisfaction from his justice.

Formerly, all posts were filled by Turks. The Bey acts on a different principle; he gives up his power of governing to none; holds the reins in his own hands; rewards and chastises from the highest to the lowest. Those about him who have any influence, are either renegadoes or slaves; but though apparently they have power, yet, in reality, their influence over him is very limited.

Since Hamooda Bey mounted the throne, fewer conspiracies have happened than are usual in this state. The only one worthy of note, was that which took place about sixteen years ago, and which had nearly cost him his life.

Three young Georgian slaves, who had suffered many insults, and the most brutal treatment, rashly formed the design of putting to death the Bey their master. They

hoped, that if they should succeed in assassinating him quietly, the whole suspicion of his murder would fall on the Sapatapa who guarded the Bey, and who was the person by whom they had been so grossly ill-treated.

At the dead of night, these three desperadoes entered the chamber of the Bey, who was asleep, but awoke on their approaching his bedside. Their intention was to cut his throat, and immediately after to leave the room; but clapping his hands to his throat, he prevented their design, and calling for help, the favourite, who slept in an adjoining room, flew immediately to the assistance of his prince. In assisting his master, the Sapatapa was severely wounded, both by a pistol shot and a poignard; but none of his wounds proved mortal. Other slaves were awakened by the noise, and ran to the Bey's chamber; among the first was Soliman Kaiya, who met one of the assassins endeavouring to make his escape, and cleft him through by a stroke of his sabre. The other two made their retreat to an upper cham-

ber. There they barricadoed the door, and resisted every flattering promise which was held out to them if they would surrender. Too well acquainted with oriental policy, they knew the fate which awaited them. At day-break, when they knew they must be overpowered, a report of pistols was heard; and on breaking open the door, it was found that the two unfortunate youths had fallen by each other's hands. The eldest of the three, could not count sixteen years of age.

The Bey is said to have behaved with great courage and presence of mind on this occasion. He was severely wounded in the hand, by one of their knives, called *yata-gans*, which he had seized in the hopes of wresting it from one of them. In warding off another blow, he received a wound in his cheek, the mark of which is still visible.

The Bey was much affected at this misfortune. The young men, until the very last, declared, that the desperate design was only entered into, in the hopes that their

brutal oppressor might suffer for it. The Bey is said to have indicated to the Sapatapa great displeasure at his cruel treatment of the slaves, many complaints of which had reached his ears, which he had not been before inclined to believe.



CHAP. III.

Account of Several of the Relations of the Bey Hamooda Pasha, who Reside at his Palace; and a Sketch of the Characters of the Leading Men at his Court.

WHEN Mahamed Bey died, it will be remembered, that he left two sons, of whom little notice has been taken. On the death of Aly Bey, in 1782, seeing that it would be vain to strive against the stream of fortune which ran strongly against them; they were the first who saluted their cousin Hamooda as their prince.

The names of these two princes are Mahmood Bey, and Ismail Bey. Ever since the death of their uncle, and for many years before, they have lived at Bardo, the residence of the Bey, distant about four short miles from the capital. They are, according

to all accounts, of a quiet and inoffensive character, and have never interfered in the affairs of the state. The eldest is married to his cousin, sister of the present Bey, by whom he has two sons, already mentioned among those who may succeed to the throne. The other, Ismail, is married to a Sardinian renegado, by whom, I believe, he has no issue.

It will also be recollected, that Aly Bey when he died, left, besides Hamooda, two other sons, Mahamed Bey, since dead, and Osman Bey, who is living. Osman is married, and has two sons, the most promising of all the young Beys, and the most likely to succeed the present prince.

Of the five daughters whom Aly left, two were married to his prime minister Mustafa Cogia, one to his nephew Mahmood, another to Ismail Kaiya, a late Captain Pasha of the Grand Signior; the fifth remains unmarried from choice. Mustafa and the Kaiya have left no issue by these princesses.

Mustafa Cogia (or the secretary) was a Georgian slave, who obtained his freedom from his master on account of his fidelity, and the many useful services he had rendered him. On Hamooda's accession to the throne, Mustafa was still continued in place; and to his prudence and good counsel, we may ascribe, in a great measure, the respectable state of the Bey's affairs.

After the death of his brother-in-law Mustafa, the Bey, fond of managing his own affairs, never named a successor to him. He acts in all things himself as prince and minister. The seals of the state he put into the hands of one of his Georgian slaves, who from holding that office is called Sapatapa*.

We have before observed, that the court of Hamooda Pasha Bey, is formed of slaves and renegadoes, it may, therefore, not be uninteresting to inquire into the characters of the leading men among them.

* Sapatapa appears to be a corruption of Siedetapa, master of the seals.

At the court of Hamooda, the Sapatapa figures in the first sphere. He is a Georgian slave, who, in his younger days, was, on account of his beauty, presented to the Bey. Besides being keeper of the seals, he is head of the body guard, and, under the prince, commander of the army. The Sapatapa is changed in his appearance, from what he must have been in his youth. He is now corpulent and heavy; his face, the true picture of his mind, expresses insolence and discontent. He is cruel, revengeful, jealous, intriguing, and avaricious; and abounds with all that low cunning, so unavoidably attached to slavery. He appears to be about forty years of age.

Since the late victories over the Algerines, he is allowed to sit down in the Bey's presence. This is one of the highest honours that can be conferred on a man who still continues a slave, notwithstanding many efforts to procure his freedom, which the Bey, from some unknown reason, refuses to grant. Being a slave, he is unmarried.

As a statesman, the Sapatapa has never displayed any talents. As a soldier, he has been fortunate, but in the field of action has shown no signs of ability; and his courage, by all accounts, has merited no great praise.

The Sapatapa is immensely rich, which may be one of the reasons why the Bey refuses him his freedom. His slaves are numerous, ill fed, ill paid, and worked harder than any others; and when a ransom is offered for any of them, his avarice knows no bounds. His mercenary spirit has greatly injured commerce. He is a great and ruinous merchant and speculator, and few of the country dare to vie with him in the markets of Tunis, or even in those of France or Italy.

The next character in the state, is Soliman Kaiya, another Georgian slave. He is second in the command of the army, and also conductor of the camps, which go to collect the tribute and dues of the Bey, on the frontiers of the state. His character is an exact contrast to that of the slave before mentioned.

He is a man of a noble appearance, and great suavity of manners. He is open, liberal, brave even to rashness, and more humane than could be expected from a man reared among barbarians. Every art that can possibly be used, to ruin him with the Bey, has been tried by the Sapatapa, who is jealous of his good qualities; but Soliman, prudent, as well as brave, knows his situation, and avoids every snare which is laid to entrap him. The Bey is also too well convinced of the talents of Soliman, and of the services he has rendered, to listen to any thing which might injure him. Had he been brought up in a Christian country, and studied military tactics, it is likely, that he would have become both a great general, and a great man. In the field, he is more a courageous soldier, than a prudent officer, and what he achieves with the rabble under his command, is more the result of animal courage, than of good generalship. Soliman, is a man of about thirty-six years of age.

Another leading character at the court of Hamooda Bey, is Mariano Stinco, a favourite

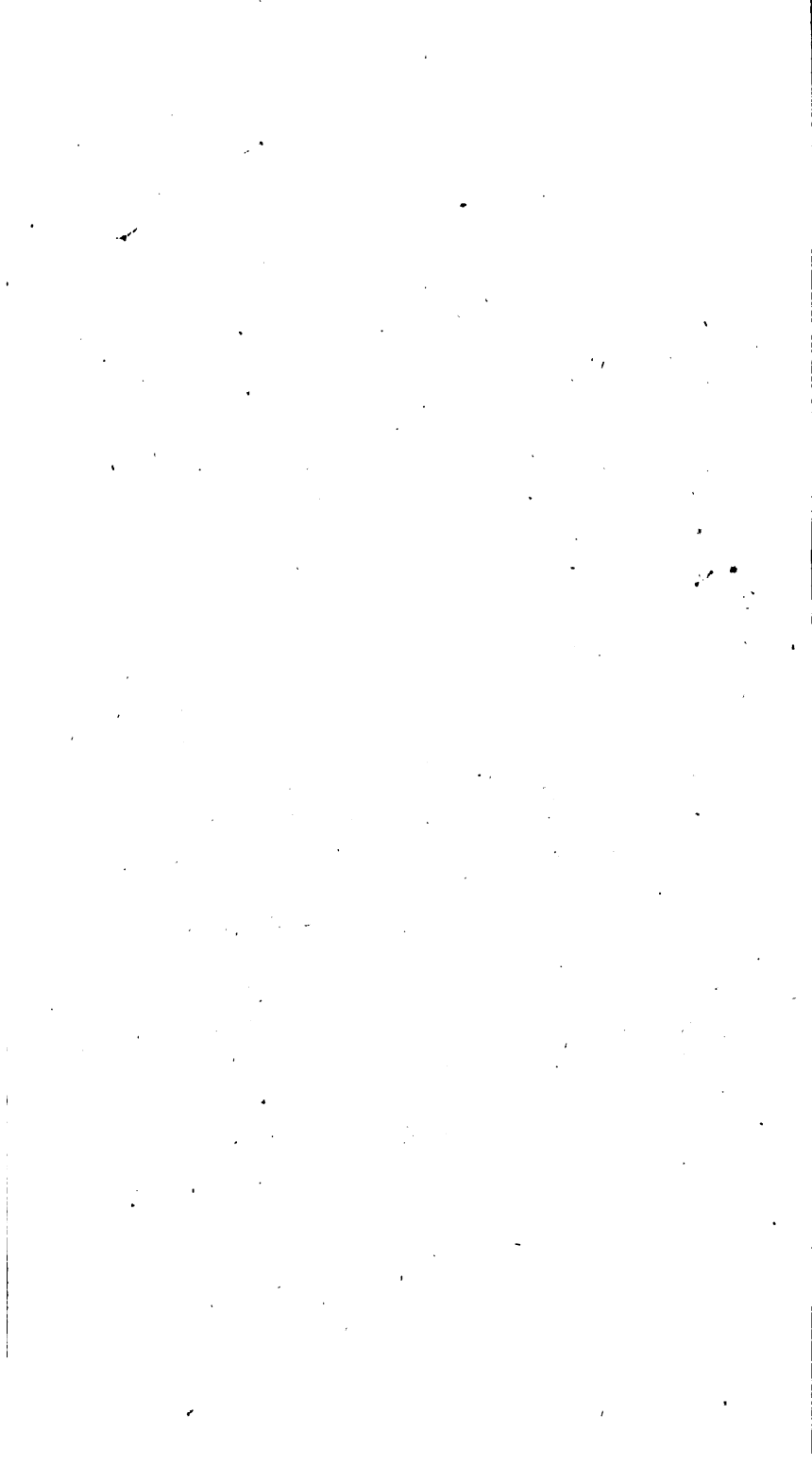
slave, who has the superintendence of the rest. He is by birth a Neapolitan; but many years ago, was captured, and brought into Tunis. All attempts to convert him to the Mussulman faith, have proved abortive; he still remains a Christian. He is also employed as a private secretary and interpreter, by the Bey, when he receives any letters from the Consuls, which he is at a loss to understand.

The Guardian Basha, or head guard over all the slaves, is a Neapolitan renegado of infamous character. This fellow was at one time employed in a place of trust at Naples. But abusing the confidence placed in him, he, with some accomplices, committed a robbery to a considerable amount, and fled from the country. Information of him having been obtained, he was pursued from place to place, until he landed at Tunis; where, to save his head, he changed his faith and his name.

The Guardian Basha is one of the cleverest men, and one of the greatest villains, in

the regency; there is no possible crime which he has not committed. The late Bey thought of profiting by his intellects, and employed him about his person; but his old disease again seized him—he made false keys, and pilfered from the treasure of his master. For this he was put under the bastinado, and received fifteen hundred strokes; after which he was thrown into chains, and condemned to the galleys. The French Consul solicited the Bey for him, to serve as a dragoman; which was reluctantly granted. In this situation he remained for some time; but having often the opportunity of guarding his master to Bardo, (for in this country a dragoman has the same signification which a janissary, or guard, has in the Levant,) he succeeded in again ingratiating himself at court; a matter of no great difficulty, where the generality are nearly as bad as himself. He at last obtained the situation of guardian basha. In this post he has amassed a large sum of money; but the Bey often lays a hand upon his purse, and borrows a portion of his spare cash. A very sharp eye is kept upon him; and should he ever dare

to try escaping to Europe, his fate is certain. From several small imposts, such as a tax upon all wine sold in the capital, and by cheating the poor slaves of their maintenance, his income surpasses 40,000 piastres annually. When any slave is fortunate enough to make his escape, the Guardian Basha is made to pay a sum of more than three times the amount of the ransom that would have been demanded.



CHAP. V.

The Moorish Character.

No great degree of discernment is necessary in studying the character of the Moors. They are proud, ignorant, cunning, full of deceit, avaricious, and ungrateful.

In all their dealings, whether political or mercantile, the Moors will endeavour to over-reach you; and if they have not a just idea of your national superiority, they will not fail to remind you of your situation, and avail themselves of it. Even should they be convinced of your superiority, they will, nevertheless, need to be reminded of it, before they behave to you with proper respect.

In dealing with these barbarians, it is a mistaken and foolish maxim of European

nations, to treat them with either friendship or delicacy; they have no regard for either. They look on all Christians with contempt or hatred; and if they do not commit outrages on your person and property, their forbearance proceeds not from justice or humanity, but from fear or interest. The first moment that offers, in which they may, with impunity, plunder or defraud you, their hatred and thievish inclinations, will without delay, appear.

In order to be respected and kindly treated by any of the barbaresque powers, the rod must be kept over their heads. You must make them sensible of your superiority, as a master over children at school. No favour must be granted, but in lieu of something equivalent, and not until it has been repeatedly requested; even then, it should only be granted with reluctance. Should you stand in need of any thing which they can construe into a favour, it may be set down as a rule, that unless through fear, interest, or some other base motive, your request will not be granted by either prince or subject; for the

same want of faith, honour, gratitude, and generous spirit, beginning at the fountain-head, runs through the whole polluted stream.

Revenge is one of the *noble* qualities of the Moors. A Moor long retains the remembrance of an injury, and will exert all the cunning and deceit of his character, to ensnare his enemy, and satiate his revenge. He will even so far conceal his feelings, as to show stronger marks of friendship, until, having lulled suspicion, and awakened confidence, he falls unawares upon his unsuspecting foe.

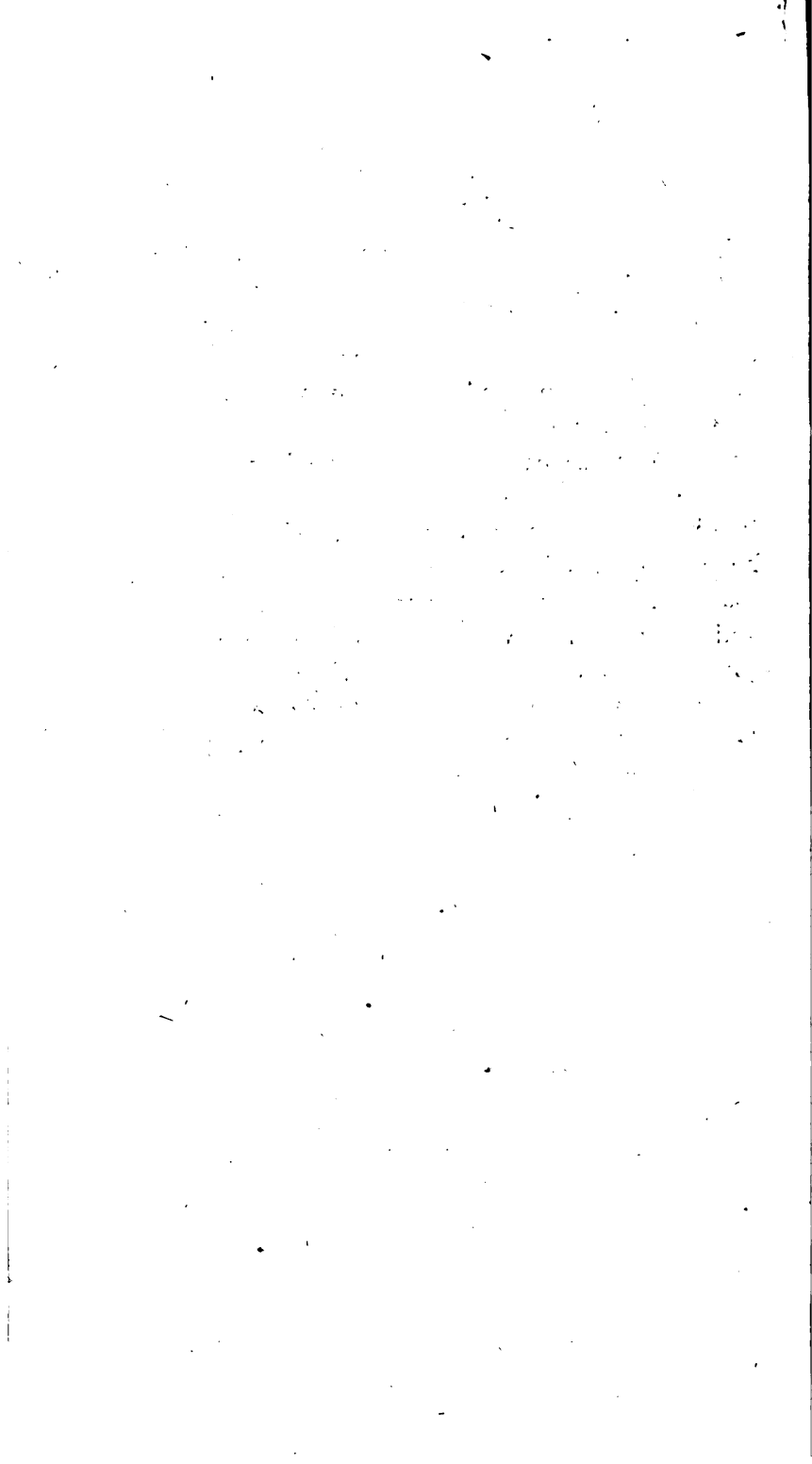
But though the memories of the Moors are extremely retentive of any injury which they may have received, or good action, which by chance they may have done, yet they are extremely forgetful of favours. Any good done to them by an infidel, they look upon as their right, conferring no obligation, and requiring no return.

Fighting them with their own weapons, is one mode of conquest, both in political

and in mercantile concerns; and it has been argued, that to deal with a Moor to advantage, you must oppose intrigue to intrigue, injustice to injustice, and chicane to chicane, otherwise he will be sure to overcome you. But though this maxim has been much followed by those who have hitherto dealt with them, yet honesty is certainly the best policy; and a man on his guard against their weak arts, will render them entirely futile, by a systematic determination to act with uniform integrity himself, and never, in any degree, to submit to imposition from them. Before talents and integrity, accompanied with vigilance and resolution, the minds of the cunning and unprincipled will almost always crouch or shrink, baffled and disconcerted,

The most sordid ideas pervade all ranks of the Moors. Among the lower class, it is curious to observe, that when called upon to pay their dues to the prince, they uniformly plead inability, and make use of every protestation to support their plea. The tax-gatherer, accustomed to this kind of pretence, puts him

who refuses, immediately under the bastinado; he then cries out, that he will pay, and generally, before rising from the ground, draws forth his bag, and counts out the cash. A gentleman who stood by, on an occasion of this kind, inquired at the man who had been under the bastinado, if it would not have been better to have paid at once? "What!" cried he, "pay my taxes without being bastinadoed? No! no!" Such conduct may arise not only from their great ignorance and love of money, which makes them hope to the last moment that they will escape, but also from the rapacious nature of the government, which renders it dangerous to appear rich.



CHAP. VI.

*Of the Army of the Bey of Tunis, and of their
Conduct in their late Affrays with the Algerines.*

THE Bey of Tunis can, at all times, upon a short warning, call to the field from forty to fifty thousand men of his militia; more than three-fourths of which are cavalry. He has also in his service, about six thousand Turks. These, in this country, are reckoned much better soldiers than the natives, are more feared by the Moors, more courageous, and more cruel.

It has been mentioned before, that the troops of the Bey are more like an armed rabble, than a regular army. They are only fit to oppose those with whom they have to fight, who are no better than themselves; and would be defeated in every encounter, by a regular army of one-tenth of their numbers.

The army of the Bey which went against the Algerines in the Spring of 1807, consisted of upwards of fifteen thousand cavalry, and ten thousand infantry, besides his Turks. They in the *run-away*, (for it never came to a battle,) in the month of March, seized with panic, abandoned the field and fled in every direction, with such precipitation, that the Algerines, without the least trouble, took entire possession of their camp, baggage, and fifteen thousand camels laden with provisions and stores of every description. Many reached Tunis on horseback, without ever stopping, or even daring to look behind them, imagining the enemy at their heels; and several thousands, in their alarm, rode their animals with such speed that they fell down under them dead. Had the Algerines profited by their victory, they would have rendered themselves masters of Tunis without much difficulty; for, in the capital, the alarm was so great, that it is thought very little resistance would have been made. But, fortunately for the Bey, the Dey's troops were so much astonished at the easy conquest of so fine a camp, and so much booty, that

they became suspicious of some ambuscade, and preferred retiring with their spoil, to the risk of farther pursuit.

This dastardly conduct of the Bey's people, is said to have arisen from a fear that they were betrayed. Great jealousy reigned in the camp between the two chief leaders. They disputed between themselves who should be Bey of Constantine, which as yet they had not taken. During this dispute, an advanced guard of the Algerines came to reconnoitre. Each party of the Tunisines, suspicious of the other, believed themselves betrayed, and in spite of every persuasion, betook themselves to flight.

The Bey with wonderful speed repaired his losses, and again in July, took the field with his army. On the 13th of that month, they were at a distance of only fifteen miles from the army of the Dey. The heat was excessive, and the Bey's troops were not only fatigued, but also without water. The Sapatapa, to whom the Bey had given the chief command of the army, made a halt

until the next day, during which, he sent out a party in search of water. For this purpose, he ordered the tents to be pitched, formed his camp, with the cavalry on the skirts, and the infantry in the centre, and placed four of his sixteen field-pieces at each angle. The advanced guard was then sent forward for water, which they knew was to be found at a river about half-way between the two armies. In their way, they fell in with a party of the enemy, which frightened them to such a degree, that they retreated in the most disorderly manner to the camp. Here the whole army took the alarm, and in the greatest confusion began to fly. Indeed, the cavalry set off, and the infantry were preparing to follow. The Sapatapa, at this crisis, distracted with the confusion around him, knew not on what course to determine. His troops were flying in every quarter, and from the immense clouds of dust occasioned by the cavalry, he could not discover whether those who advanced, were friends or foes, or what might be their numbers. It was the cry of all around him, that they were friends; but a Greek slave who

had charge of the artillery, convinced that they were the Algerines, contrary to the orders of the commander-in-chief, applied the match to one of the pieces. Fortunately, this shot killed the horse of one of the first assailants, and did some other trifling damage. The Algerines, in their turn, became frightened, pulled up their horses, and receiving a discharge from the remaining three guns, which the Greek commanded, loaded with round and grape shot, wheeled round, and also took to flight. The Bey's cavalry, who were yet at no great distance, seeing this, recovered from their fears, and returning to their duty, pursued the Algerines to their camp.

In the morning of the 14th, the two armies came in sight of each other, on the margin of the river before mentioned, but kept at a safe distance. A kind of irregular fighting continued from day-break till sunset, without injury on either side; and they appeared more inclined to menace each other, than to come to close action. In the evening the Algerines fired a gun without ball. This

is understood among these warriors, to be a signal, that they are inclined to leave off till the morning. No more shot was fired, and the battle of this day was concluded.

Some of the Bey's cavalry, however, whom Soliman Kaiya had under his command, being seen on the mountains at sun-set, the Algerines, fearing that it was the intention of the Tunisines to surround them before the morning, again took alarm; fled during the night with as great precipitation as the Bey's troops had done in the Spring, and left behind them the whole of their stores, camp, and camels. The camels are said to have amounted to ten thousand. The Tunisines took also the whole of the Algerine artillery, consisting of twenty field-pieces, and four mortars. But, being contented with what they had gained with so little fighting, they refused to avail themselves of the prospect which opened to them of taking Constantine; an opportunity which they may never again enjoy. Its gates were open for their reception, and some of the boldest of the cavalry even rode into the city. The Sapatapa

willing to secure the victory he had so *gloriously* gained, returned satisfied to Tunis, to enjoy the fruits of his *heroism*. It was now too late in the season for the Algerines to form another camp, and they have not since taken the field. In these engagements, it will not excite wonder, that very few men were killed, taken prisoners, or even wounded. The distance at which they fought, rendered their warfare comparatively harmless.

Of the conduct of the Sapatapa during these several encounters, different reports are circulated. Some say that he showed great signs of cowardice, but others, who were on the spot, affirm that his conduct displayed more cool courage and humanity, than was expected from him, and that the reason why he so long prevented the Greek slave from discharging the artillery, was, that some of his own men were between him and the enemy; which circumstance, the machiavelian Greek did not think of sufficient importance to deter him from firing. It is also asserted, that after the battle, he gave the choice to

the prisoners, either of entering the Bey's army, or of returning quietly to their own country.

The French at Tunis vaunt of this victory, and ascribe to France the honour of giving birth to the hero who won the day. It was Moreau! true emblem of French virtue, who performed this glorious service! It was he who saved Tunis from thralldom, and the ravages of an Algerine army! *Honour to whom honour is due!* It is natural to inquire, who is this dignified person, this General Moreau? He is a fellow, who, calling himself a deserter from the French army, obtained protection from the English. His character, however, becoming known, and it being reported that he was a murderer, he was also turned out of the English service. He then went to Constantinople, where, by his own account, he was servant to the British Ambassador in the capacity of Hus-sar. He afterwards came to Tunis. Here he renegadoed, and entered the service of the Bey, who made him a commander of artillery. But so far from rendering any service, he,

during the whole of both actions, lay drunk in his tent. In Tunis, he now acts as barber to the mariners, is seldom sober, and in his whole conduct, is one of the lowest and most worthless of miscreants. But many such as he, has France enrolled in her legion of honour.

CHAP. VII.

Of the Population of the Regency of Tunis.

It is generally said in Tunis, that the whole population of the regency, before the great plague and famine, amounted to five millions of souls. This must be a very vague conjecture. The circumstances of the country render it very difficult to form an idea of its population. The numbers too, must be continually fluctuating, from the unsettled manner in which many of the people live. Throughout all the states of Barbary, various tribes are found wandering from one place to another, with their flocks and herds, living in tents, and changing their residence according to the state of the pasturage.

It is said, that the last plague and famine carried off from one-third to one-half of the inhabitants, throughout the regency.

But may it not be presumed, that this calculation is still more vague than the other. For although in the towns, particularly in the capital, the mortality was very great, and carried off perhaps nearly one-half of the population, yet in the country where the people were not crowded together, but enjoyed both space and air, the mortality by the pestilence must have been comparatively small, perhaps not reaching to one-tenth part of the whole. The famine, it is true, committed great havoc among the poor inhabitants of the interior; deprived of food and even of water, and sheltered from the almost vertical rays of the sun, only by the flimsy covering of a hair-cloth tent.

If no other cause except the late famine, has arisen to diminish the number of inhabitants, it may be presumed, that the waste of population has been in a great measure supplied, and that the present amount is nearly equal to that of 1785, when, as has been mentioned, it is generally stated to have been five millions. But may not the bad policy of the prince in oppressing his subjects,

have powerfully contributed to prevent the increase of their numbers? In a country where industry is cramped by a continual recurrence of the most vexatious circumstances; and harrassing interruptions; where property, liberty, and life, are uncertain; where, the happiness of domestic life is in a great degree unknown; the greatest profligacy of manners prevails; and the means even of subsistence are often difficult; a diminution of population, rather than a great or rapid increase, is to be naturally expected. Hence, probably, more than from any other cause, that decrease in the number of inhabitants which is said to be visible throughout the whole territory. This effect will be perceived in every country, under the oppression of ignorance, avarice, and despotism. Throughout all the various regions under Turkish tyranny, we have melancholy examples of the sad desolation which these produce; and in the regency of Tunis, we must certainly not look for an exception.

The population of the regency, may perhaps, therefore, with greater reason, be

reckoned at two and a half millions of souls: seven thousand of whom may be Turks; one hundred thousand Jews; seven thousand Christians, either freemen or slaves; and the remainder Moors, Arabs, and Renegadoes.

CHAP. VIII.

The Situation of the City of Tunis, its Port and Fortifications; the Climate, Country, &c. &c.

THE city of Tunis is built at a distance of about six miles from the head of the gulf which bears its name; and is separated from the sea by an extensive lake, which also receives its name from the city. It is surrounded by a miserable wall of mud and stone, neither fitted for ornament, nor for use. The buildings in the town are of stone, but of very mean architecture. In the whole city, there is not to be found one building worthy of description. The Bey is erecting a palace, which, when finished, may perhaps be handsome, but it is buried in a dirty narrow street, and that nothing may be lost, the lower, or ground floor, is intended for shops. He is also building several barracks in the town,

which, when completed, will render his soldiers much more comfortable than they are at present. The streets of Tunis are narrow, dirty, and unpaved; the bazars, or shops, are of the poorest appearance, and but indifferently stocked with merchandise. The inhabitants, who crowd these miserable alleys, present the picture of poverty and oppression.

It must be confessed, notwithstanding, that the present Bey has added greatly to the respectability of the town's appearance. At the different gates he has erected, under the direction of a Dutch engineer, something like fortifications. But should they ever chance to be attacked, these decorations of *Mynheer* will be found only like the paste-board batteries of a theatre. In the neighbourhood of the city, however, he has built several small castles, which promise to afford better protection.

At the upper end of the town, stands the castle of the Gaspa *, built by the Spaniards

* Gaspa, I find to be the Moorish name for citadel.

when they had possession of the country. This fort commands the town, and in case of necessity, would keep it in complete subjection.

The port of Tunis is at the Goletta, or entrance from the sea into the lake. As no river, nor even rivulet, runs into the lake of Tunis, the evaporation is supplied by a current at the Goletta from the sea.

At the Goletta, there are two forts of considerable strength, built by the Spaniards during the reign of Charles V. They are in a tolerable state of repair. Several fine guns are to be seen in them, particularly a large one for throwing stone-shot, and a gun of exquisite workmanship, which was plundered from the arsenal of Leghorn by the French, and sold by one of Bonaparte's commissaries, to an agent of the Bey of Tunis, about seven years ago *.

* I was in Leghorn when this happened, and saw the gun shipped at the arsenal, opposite to the monument.

It was at one time the intention of the Bey to drain the lake, which is daily filling up by the filth of the city which runs into it. For this purpose, he sent for several engineers from Holland. The intention was to drain the lake, and form a channel of sufficient depth to bring vessels of burthen up to the town, where a handsome port was to be formed, fitted to contain not only merchant vessels, but also the ships of war belonging to the prince. Many obstacles, however, arose to prevent the execution of this princely design. The draining of the lake might create bad air, and the country which had just been scourged by the pestilence, might again be visited by disease. The engineers were also of opinion, that ten years would be necessary to complete the work, with the labour of ten thousand slaves, and the cost of no small sum of money, besides materials,

The plan was for these reasons abandoned, and the Bey contented himself with forming a small port at the Goletta. Into this, vessels of a small draught of water can enter through a handsome canal of stone, in which there is at all times fifteen feet of water.

This being the situation of the port of Tunis, the ships of the Bey make use of Porto Farina, as safer and more commodious. Vessels loading or unloading at Tunis, lie off in the roads, in between five and seven fathoms water, with fine anchorage, and are served by large lighters, to transport their cargoes. These lighters, named *sandals*, drawing little water, even navigate in the lake, and bring their loads to its borders below the city. Ships wishing to avail themselves of the port at the Goletta, can enter on paying a due of three Spanish dollars a-day; but very few choose to lay themselves under so heavy a tax.

It is said, that the French at one period, offered to form the port which the Bey wished, provided he would grant them the exclusive trade of his dominions; but that he refused to accept their offer.

The lake between Tunis and the Goletta, is of an oval shape, and is about twenty miles

round *. The few fish which are found in it, are of a coarse quality. The birds on its surface are of the common kinds of sea-fowl, if we except the flamingoes, which are here in great number. They are pretty birds, of the size of a swan, and inhabit the lake during all seasons.

The population of the city of Tunis has been computed to amount to upwards of one hundred and fifty thousand souls; and it has been supposed, that before the great plague, which was said to have carried off about one hundred and thirty thousand, its population extended to three hundred thousand. But it is impossible to form a just estimate of its population. Certainly it is great, but in countries under the Mahomedan superstition, it is not permitted to enumerate the people. Judging from other Turkish towns, Tunis, I should suppose, cannot contain more than

* In the boat of H. M. S. Pylades, with a light breeze, I went from Tunis to the Goletta, the length of the lake, in one hour and a quarter. The officer in the boat, thought we went at the rate of about four miles an hour.

one hundred thousand inhabitants. To form a correct idea on this subject, it would be necessary to visit their houses, which are small and full of inhabitants. But by attempting this even in a cursory manner, a Christian would not only incur the displeasure of the people, but also the suspicion of the government, whose spies are at every corner. Many thousands of the inhabitants seldom leave their houses, unless when obliged by absolute necessity.

The climate of Tunis is one of the finest in the world, and admirably adapted for the production of most of those articles, which, for the supply of Europe, are brought from an immense distance. All the coast of Barbary is capable of producing cotton, sugar, and spices of almost every kind. Indigo and silk might be raised with a little care. The soil also, through the whole state of Tunis, is remarkably fine, and with scarcely any cultivation, renders to the husbandman an astonishing return. The district to the eastward, renders in a good year, even an hundred fold.

The air of Tunis, at a little distance from the town and lake, is extremely salubrious.

It is remarkable, that throughout almost the whole of the regency, the water in the springs is either salt or hot. But some springs of note are of the purest water, such as that at Zawan; which formerly, over thousands of arches, supplied Carthage with water at a distance of sixty miles. The water used at Tunis, is that which is collected during the Winter in cisterns. With one of these every house is provided; and the houses being flat-roofed, every drop of rain is collected.

But although rain-water is used in the capital, it must not be supposed that this luxury is enjoyed in every place. In many places in the interior, the inhabitants drink nothing but that which their springs afford; and this, though in many places salt, they prefer to that which is fresh, and experience from it no inconvenience.

The hot springs afford baths, which are recommended as salutary in many diseases.

In some springs the water is equal to boiling heat.

During the Summer and Autumn, rain is rare. About the middle of October it is looked for; but should it not fall till late in the year, there is reason to fear a scanty crop in the Spring. Should the rain commence in October, and the wet season continue until April, the greatest abundance appears throughout every part of the country. The grain yields plentifully, and the olive crowns the hopes of the husbandman. Nature spreads over the fields its richest carpet, and the flocks rejoice in health and abundance.

The husbandman in the eastern district, reaps his hundred fold about the end of April; in the western, his less abundant crops, near two months later.

The contrast is great, when it pleases the Almighty to shut up the windows of Heaven until January. The soil then becomes arid and sterile; the seed when sown, produces little; the olive becomes shrivelled and withered, and the flocks perish for want of

provender. Such was the horrid picture in 1805, when thousands both of man and beast, died through famine.

In the most interior parts of the regency, rain is seldom known; particularly in Biledulgerid, the country of dates, as the name is said to denote. The palm-tree requires a great quantity of water, yet the smallest shower of rain would entirely ruin the date. It is, therefore, watered by the hand; and in that country, the water of the rivers, which entirely supply the demand of the people, is so hot, that they are obliged to draw it several hours before it can be applied to the watering of their gardens. It is curious to observe, that although those rivers are so hot, that to hold the hand in them is disagreeable, yet they abound with fish, which are said to have no flavour. Besides being hot, the waters are also brackish.

The black cattle about Tunis are very small. They resemble the small cows which are driven from Scotland to England; and in the flavour of their flesh, they are also very like

them. The mutton of Tunis is not esteemed; the sheep are all of the broad-tailed breed, and their flesh tastes strongly of wool. The flesh of the lambs, however, is very good. Goats are also eaten by the people of the country, who are not much accustomed to make distinctions in the quality of their food.

The whole of the regency abounds with game; the red-legged partridges in particular are abundant, but they have little flavour. Indeed, neither their game nor their fish are of a superior quality.

The Barbary courser seems to have changed his place of residence. It is very rare to see at Tunis, a horse of even ordinary figure. The mares are in general well made, and appear of almost a different breed; but even they are much inferior to those of Europe, and particularly to those of England.

The mules are good, and are trained to a particular amble, by putting lead on their hind-feet at the fetlock joint. This forces them to move the fore and hind leg on the

same side at the same time, and produces a very easy and quick pace in those which are properly trained.

The asses of Tunis are also good, and much used.

The prices of all these animals are very high. A good horse will cost from seven hundred to a thousand piasters; a fine mule not less, and often more; and an ass, very frequently from four hundred to fifty piasters.

Camels are generally used throughout the whole regency. They are certainly better adapted to the climate than any other animal; and both carry a greater load, and are more easily maintained.

Dromedaries are now very rarely to be seen. The Bey used them formerly to carry his dispatches; but it would appear that the breed is now lost in this country. The pace taught the mules, is the natural pace of the camel and dromedary, in which the latter travels with an astonishing velocity.

The necessities of life at Tunis, were formerly extremely reasonable; but the war with Algiers having cut off the greater part of the supplies, particularly of sheep and bullocks, they have risen to more than double their usual price. Formerly a good bullock cost only twenty or twenty-five piasters; now one of the same quality cannot be had for less than from fifty-five to sixty. A sheep formerly sold for five piasters, but now sells for upwards of twenty.

During nine months in the year, the number of bullocks brought from the district near Constantine, amounted monthly to ten thousand, and of sheep to twenty thousand. But during the two last years in which the war has continued, this supply has been cut off; and the Bey, in order to preserve the breed, has ordered that in all his territory no cow or ewe should be killed.

CHAP. IX.

Of the Antiquities of the Regency of Tunis.

THE regency of Tunis abounds with rich materials for the philosopher and antiquarian; but from the state of the country, and jealousy of the government, it is dangerous to travel in the interior. The space between Tunis and Cape Carthage, is strewed over with immense vestiges of antiquity. The remains of an extensive aqueduct, which supplied Carthage with water from the mountains of Zawan, a circuitous distance of sixty miles, (the direct line being little more than half that distance,) can still easily be traced from the mouth of the cistern, until lost among the mountains. The cisterns are still to be seen. Those which received the water from the aqueduct, are now become the habitations of those miserable Bedouins, who remain in this part of the country. Those which are denominated the small

cisterns, and which probably received only rain-water, are still in many parts in a tolerably perfect state. Near them, towards the sea, are the ruins of an immense temple, of which nothing now remains but rubbish; if we except the subterraneous passages, which, though now nearly filled up with the earth that has been thrown into them by the Winter rains of many centuries, are yet still easily to be discovered, and may be followed under ground, in the direction towards the sea, for a considerable distance. It is, however, a hazardous undertaking, both for the reasons before mentioned, and on account of the snakes and scorpions, with which this country is infested. Proceeding as far as prudence will permit, a gun fired through them makes a lengthened echo; which shows that they extend much farther. The whole of the ancient site of Carthage, is occupied by subterraneous ruins.

A short time ago, an edifice was discovered, consisting of several apartments, in a tolerably perfect state; the paintings still exist on the roof of one of the rooms. As

no fine marble is to be found, it is presumed, that Carthage was built wholly of mortar and small stones; of which the vestiges bear strong evidence. It is urged, however, that all the fine marble which is said to have faced the aqueduct and temples, has been carried off to build the palaces of the Moorish princes. Still, had this been the case, how small must have been the quantity which a few miserable Moorish palaces were able to consume! The fields are strewn over with small pieces of porphyry and verd antique, of about half an inch thick and two or three square, which formed a sort of incrustation on the walls. The lofty arches seem to have been lined with a sort of rude mosaic work; in some parts, of marble, in others, of a composition.

The Bey has a small fort near the lesser cisterns, called St. Louis. On the top of the mountain, at Cape Carthage, at the village of Sigebusaid, is the tomb (now used as a signal house) in which St. Louis was buried. On mount Gamart, to the west of Cape Carthage, are evident marks of an

ancient catacomb of great extent; but no one dares to enter it, although it is open in many different places.

At Zawan, the mountain from which Carthage was supplied with water, are the remains of a fine temple, still a beautiful ruin. And at Utica, the ruins of a building, said to have been the palace where Cato resided, are still to be seen.

Many medals, chiefly Roman, are found through every part of the state, and many curiously engraved stones; but the Christians at Tunis, are such speculators in medals and stones, that, unless at a great price, none can be bought, even though of small merit. There is not a cook in Tunis, who does not purchase antiques; and the collections of such people, are often as good as those of their masters, and bought at no less price.

The Dutch engineer before mentioned, has a very valuable collection, both of medals and of stones, and also several curious inscriptions, which he intends one day to lay

before the public. His work will be very interesting, for, from a residence of ten years, with the intention from the beginning to publish, he has collected a great deal of very curious information. Another work will also shortly appear, written by the Danish Consul Mr. Lunby, a man of great classical knowledge, which will contain many interesting details, both regarding the ancient and modern state of Tunis: and should Mr. Tulin, his Swedish Majesty's Consul-General, be persuaded to publish the fine views which his pencil has drawn, during a residence of thirty-five years in Tunis, the public will receive a gratification of no ordinary kind.

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CHAP. X.

Of the Slaves in Tunis; to what Country they belong; their Exchange and Ransom; many in Slavery, taken under British Protection and Colours.

At the commencement of the present reign, the number of slaves in the regency of Tunis was considerably increased. The Bey was young, and his military spirit led him to make war upon his Christian neighbours, whom he too well knew were unable to resist his force. He encouraged his subjects to fit out privateers, and he himself set his corsairs in order. Many captives were doomed to beat the briny surf, chained to the oar; and many of both sexes fell victims to the brutal passions of the conquering Moors. The island of St. Peter, belonging to the king of Sardinia, was about that time taken by assault; and all its inhabitants, men, women, and children, were carried off into captivity. The number taken in this fruit-

ful enterprise, amounted to nearly one thousand, most of whom were women and children.

Now, that many of the states bordering upon the Mediterranean, who formerly, from a point of religion, maintained continual war with the Moors, have fallen into the hands of England and France; the number of the powers who made war with the states of Barbary, is considerably diminished; and the subjects belonging to them, have been delivered from slavery by their potent protectors.

The king of the Sicilies, and the king of Sardinia, are the only two sovereigns, with whom, in the present day, the Bey of Tunis continues to be at war; and as these two kingdoms are on the point of being ingulfed in the whirlpool of the contending powers, it is to be supposed, that their subjects in slavery will soon be relieved from their cruel situation.

The unfortunate king of Sardinia, has uniformly done whatever lay within the

reach of his power, to ransom such of his subjects as had the misfortune to fall into the hands of his enemies. All those who were taken on the island of St. Peter, he ransomed several years ago; and at present, the total number of his people in slavery in Tunis is only twenty-five. These it is his intention to redeem; and at this time, a vessel with a flag of truce has arrived for that laudable purpose, bringing the Moors who were in slavery in his dominions, to be exchanged, and a sum of money to make up the difference. For although the number of Moors equals that of the Sardinians, yet it being customary to give five Moors for two Christians, money is necessary; and the price fixed on the surplus, is eleven hundred piasters per head, whether man, woman, or child. Sometimes, indeed, a much larger sum is demanded as a ransom, but such a demand is only made, when the slave is a person of fortune, or endowed with some particular talent*.

* The price of slaves depends upon circumstances. It has been the custom of the Consul of a northern

The king of Naples forms a striking contrast to the poor Sardinian king, and shows in this instance, the same low conduct which in other cases, has so strongly marked his conduct. If an unfortunate female throw herself at his feet, in behalf of the father of her family in slavery, he is said to answer, by demanding, "if she cannot find another husband as good as he?" And an unfortunate husband imploring the ransom of his wife, is answered in the same unprincipled unfeeling manner, "what, are women so scarce in my dominions?" The number of slaves in Tunis, belonging to this prince, amounts to nearly two thousand; and let it be confessed with shame and sorrow, that upwards of one hundred of them have been

power, who, from his intrigues, had the ransoming of Sicilian slaves, to pay three hundred Venetian zechins, or nearly two thousand six hundred piasters; but he paid this sum, more to gratify the Moors than from necessity. The French generally have paid less than two thousand; the British Consul will not pay more than one thousand five hundred for picked slaves. Many of the Sardinians were infants.

taken, navigating under the protection of British passports. In vain has the Consul of his Britannic Majesty used his efforts for their relief. While his endeavours are frustrated by others in power in the Mediterranean, who, from some strange policy, are afraid of offending the powers of Barbary, though they would not, but through fear, give a single bullock to save the British navy from starving, they must remain in slavery, and carry disgraceful ideas of the British nation into the minds of every one who hears of their situation.

Among the number of those who suffer from this torpor of feeling, are several unfortunate females of respectability, particularly a Sicilian lady with five daughters, who are at present in the hands of the Kaiya of Porto Farina, or first minister of the Bey's marine. As they have come to age, the unhappy mother has had the affliction to behold her daughters sacrificed to the barbarian. One of them fell an early victim,

and died in her tender years *. But they who thus shamefully keep them in slavery, feel no horror at such inhuman crimes; nor do the sighs of the widow and of the fatherless, affect hearts so depraved!

The state of the females who have the misfortune to fall into the hands of the Moors, is always deplorable: but the fate of the unfortunate boys who become their victims, is still more to be lamented.

If we were able to forget the miserable situation of these unfortunate females and young men, it must be confessed, that in other respects, the slaves in Tunis are not ill treated. They are either kept about the houses of their masters, in a domestic capacity, or put out to work at such trades as they have been accustomed to; and they are seldom punished, unless they have commit-

* Since writing this, the Kaiya has found it his interest to make a present of the mother and one of her daughters to Mr Oglander, the Consul, but still three remain in slavery.

ted some offence. Many are employed in the gardens of their masters, and some are permitted to serve in the houses of Christians, who are employed in the service of the Bey. If sick, an hospital is provided for them. They are well fed, though not sumptuously; and they are clothed, particularly if they belong to affluent persons, sometimes even in a rich and gaudy style.

Many slaves have lately renegadoed; indeed, in a greater proportion than at any former period. Those who have thus deserted their religion, are principally subjects of the king of Naples; and it is thought, that they have been driven to this degree of desperation, from the hopelessness of being freed by their unfeeling sovereign. The French, much to their credit, have procured the release of every slave, subject to the countries which have fallen under their power. No wonder then, if the Sicilians be ready to welcome those on their island, by whom their parents, brothers, husbands, wives, and children, may once more be restored to their native land!

CHAP. XI.

Of the Revenue of the Regency of Tunis, and the Sources from which it Arises.

MANY conjectures have been made respecting the amount of the revenue of the regency of Tunis. It has been stated to amount to twenty-four millions of piasters of the country. Whatever it may have been at a former period, (and it is most certain, that it never amounted to near that sum, even when commerce was in its most flourishing state,) at the present moment, it does not amount to one-fourth part of that sum, proceeding from its *regular* sources.

The *regular* sources from which the Bey draws his revenue, are the tithes upon the cultivation of oil, grain, &c.; the produce of his own lands; the sale of tescars (or *permits*) for the exportation of oil and grain,

and for the importation of wine and spirits ; the customs, which are annually farmed to the highest bidder; the sale of the monopoly of different productions of the country; the sale of governments and *places* in the country; a taxation on the Jews; and the sale of slaves.

The *uncertain* sources of his revenue, are his extortions from his rich subjects; the appropriation of the wealth of his rich subjects who die, which is almost universally seized by the government; and his profit in trade, which is considerable, for as we have before observed, he is a great speculator in commerce.

It is impossible to form any idea of his treasure. That he has treasure, is certain, and that it is of great amount, is generally supposed; but respecting what that amount may be, we cannot hazard a conjecture, on which any dependance could be placed.

The expenditure of the state, it is thought, during these two years past, has equalled

fully the revenue; some even think it has exceeded; but this is also an uncertain conjecture. The Bey's expenses have, however, been gréat; for besides the number of troops which he is obliged to maintain, in order to keep in check the Algerines, the fortifications which he has built within these few years, must have cost him a considerable sum. He has also built a great many gun-boats, for the defence of his coast,

CHAP. XII.

*Some of the Manners and Customs of the Moors
of Tunis.*

AMONG the Moors, are to be found few customs worthy of being either recorded or imitated. From their great ignorance, they are extremely superstitious; and many of their actions are guided by omens or signs. In their religion, they are perhaps more rigorous than the Mahometans of any other country. Their mosques, which, even in Constantinople, are visited by Christians, sometimes with, and sometimes without an order from the Sultan, would here be considered as profaned were they entered by any one not of their belief. It is even asserted, that for such an offence a Christian would forfeit his life. Their temples are, however, sanctuaries, where guilty Mahometans of every description,

are beyond the reach of the law, and may remain unmolested for any length of time. Throughout every part of the country, are to be seen places of prayer, which are in general, either the dwelling places of their saints, or their tombs, (called marabouts,) and like the retreats of the Roman Catholic recluses, are built upon the finest spots of the country. The saints who inhabit these places, merit a more particular description, as they give a finishing stamp to the ignorance and superstition of the country. The Moorish saints are the unfortunate part of the human species, whom it has pleased the Almighty to deprive of the use of their senses. Many outrages are with impunity committed by them, and as may be easily supposed, many crafty people feign madness to enjoy this privilege. Great miracles are said to be wrought by these saints, and it would be esteemed impiety to doubt their supernatural powers. To one of them, who died some years since, was ascribed the power of visiting the tomb of the prophet at Mecca, and of returning within the space of

half an hour; and the advice and information which he gave on these occasions, received the most submissive attention. Another was sent for during this Spring, by the Sapa-tapa, to accompany the army; and there is little doubt, that whatever happy event may have occurred, will be attributed to his presence and assistance. This famous saint is said to possess the power of passing, during the silence of night, over to Europe, and of killing sometimes from two to three hundred infidels; before day-break he regularly returns to Barbary.

The *evil eye*, is another superstition which prevails in this and every Mahometan country. If the horse, mule, or other animal belonging to one person, be praised by another, it is immediately set down as lost; and a child that is admired, is expected with certainty to meet some misfortune. It is surprising to what a pitch this superstition is carried even among Franks in these countries. I have known a Frank at Constantinople, of the most enlightened character in other respects, who would give away or sell almost any

thing he had, if he had heard it praised by people whom he suspected of having cast an evil eye on it.

The unlucky omen of thirteen at table, is another superstition which exists among the ignorant Turks and Moors, as well as among the Christians of Europe.

A strange belief takes place among the people of Barbary, which they say is founded upon an ancient prophecy, that their country is to be taken from them on a Friday, during the hour of prayer at noon. For this reason, the gates of their cities are locked during that hour, and no one is allowed to pass through them during that service. It is also prophesied, that the country is to be taken by a people clothed in red; and they have an idea, that these people will be the English. It will certainly be a matter of regret, if the prophecy is not fulfilled.

Previously to the marching of their armies, the astrologers of the country are employed to watch the rising of a particular star. Should

it rise clear, they augur good, discharge their artillery, and plant the standard round which their camp is to be formed; but should the star rise obscured by clouds, or by a fog, they reckon the omen to be evil, and defer the planting of the standard until another day. When the camp breaks up, which is formed near the Bey's palace, where every thing is prepared for the march; a pair of black bulls are sacrificed as the commander passes. After this, victory is expected to crown his endeavours; and the "*loo-loo-loo* *," of the spectators, proves that their good wishes accompany their friends.

The arrival of the troops from Sfax to join the camp, deserves here to be noticed. Before entering the gates of Tunis, with one accord, they laid down their colours and arms, knelt down and prayed. After prayer they entered the city. The ladies from the roofs of the houses, saluted them with their

* The "*loo-loo-loo*," is the cry of welcome and rejoicing, corresponding to our "*huzza*!" They repeat the syllable with astonishing volubility for a length of time.

“loo-loo,” and the men answered by the discharge of their fire-arms into the air.

The Moors of Tunis appear to be less jealous of their wives than the Turks are. In Turkey, the fair sex are guarded by eunuchs; in Tunis, they have none, nor can the women be said to be guarded at all. They are served by Christian slaves, and, which is curious, they fear less to be seen by Christians than by Mussulmans. It is quite uncommon for a Moorish lady to cover herself, either before a Christian slave or a Jew. Does this arise from the contempt with which Christian slaves and Jews are considered? A Christian surgeon, who attended the family of the present Bey, was strongly suspected of an intrigue with one of his wives. This was reported to the prince, who was promised ocular proof of the guilt of the parties. The bed where the surgeon had lain was found warm, and his slippers by the bed-side; but he had effected his escape through a private door, which was discovered in the arras. In the morning the Bey sent for him, gave him a purse of money, and desired him to get off

the best way he could from his dominions, otherwise he could no longer be answerable for his life. On the woman, he inflicted no farther punishment, than banishing her ever afterwards from his bed.

The Tunisines have a curious custom of fattening up their young ladies for marriage. A girl after she is betrothed, is cooped up in a small room. Shackles of silver and gold are put upon her ankles and wrists, as a piece of dress. If she is to be married to a man who has discharged, dispatched, or lost a former wife, the shackles which the former wife wore, are put upon the new bride's limbs; and she is fed until they are filled up to the proper thickness. This is sometimes no easy matter; particularly if the former wife was fat, and the present should be of a slender form. The food used for this custom, worthy of barbarians, is a seed called *drough*; which is of an extraordinary fattening quality, and also famous for rendering the milk of nurses rich and abundant. With this seed and their national dish "*cuscusu*", the bride is literally crammed, and many actually die under the spoon.

A plurality of wives is allowed in Barbary, as well as in all Mahometan countries. A man here may possess four wives, and as many concubines as he can maintain. It seldom happens, however, that a Moor has more than two wives at the same time; but the ceremony of divorcing them is so simple, that he may change as often as he finds it convenient.

The Moors show great respect to their dead relations. On holidays, they are to be seen praying at their tombs, which are kept clean and white-washed; and any infidel who should dare to pass over them, would certainly suffer a severe punishment from the enraged enthusiasts. Their tombs are not adorned with the solemn cypress, like those of the Mahometans in Turkey; but small temples for prayer are often built over them.

In Barbary, the fine arts are totally abandoned; and like all other ignorant Mahometans, the Moors seek to destroy every vestige of ancient grandeur which remains in their country. Every piece of fine marble which

they find in any way wrought, is broken to pieces by them; as they judge from its great weight, that it may contain money. Statues or *reliefs*, seldom escape mutilation from the same idea, and also from their abhorrence of idolatry; to which purpose they imagine the statues may have originally been appropriated. They have no paintings in their houses; and the extreme jealousy of the government, renders it unsafe for any one to paint openly in the country.

Their music is of the most barbarous kind. The braying of an ass is sweeter than their softest note, whether vocal or instrumental.

The Bey of Tunis reserves to himself the privilege of driving in a carriage with four wheels. All Consuls and people of the country, therefore, are obliged to have a carriage with only two. He has become, of late, very fond of driving a gig himself. The American Consul had a very handsome one, which his Excellency saw; and as he liked it, he sent for it with very little ceremony, saying, "that he needed it, and that the

Consul must get another." The Bey is very kind in this respect. A wine merchant at Tunis had lately a fine mule, which his Excellency thought too good for a merchant, but very fit for a present from a prince. Having a present to make in Malta, he took it himself; and thus maintained his dignity, without increasing the expenses of the state.

CHAP. XIII.

*What Nation has the most Influence at the Court of
Hamooda Pasha, Bey of Tunis.*

AT all times in Barbary, the Christians are divided into two parties, and are either attached to the interest of Britain or of France; therefore, in considering what nation has the most influence, we must mean, whether Great Britain or France has the greatest power at the courts of the Barbaresque states.

At Tunis, the two rival nations formed their treaties at nearly the same time. Each nation maintain, that they were the first. Certain it is, that whoever was first or last, can be of no great importance; they both had treaties about one hundred and fifty years ago. The other Christian nations afterwards followed their example; and at present, almost every power has a Consul in Tunis.

The English, by their treaty, enjoy greater privileges in Tunis than any other nation. Upon all goods which they import into Tunis, they pay a duty of only three per cent. *ad valorem*; which will be found by consulting the Tariff, to be a mere trifle, as merchandise is valued there at a very moderate rate. The French and all other powers pay also three per cent. duty; but the goods must be imported from their own ports, and under their own colours, otherwise, they are subject to a duty of eight per cent. The English can import from whatever port they please, and under every flag, on paying only three per cent. This advantage, in former times, was little attended to, as the commerce with Great Britain was of trivial consequence; but now, that the whole supply must inevitably come from Malta, it becomes of consideration, and is an eye-sore to all in the French interest at Tunis. They, accordingly, form daily intrigues with the customer, to embroil his affairs with the British, and to put the two nations on a footing*.

* For this sole purpose, the French Consul refuses to ransom a young Frenchman, who, some years ago,

From this it is urged, that the treaty of the French was first made, and that the English improved upon it. But it is well known, that the intention of the French government in causing their treaty to be worded in this manner, was to oblige their subjects to employ their own ships, and to throw obstacles in the way of carrying on the trade of Barbary from other ports, where they might have enjoyed more facility and greater advantages, than in their own.

At a former period, the French had much more influence in Tunis, than they have at present. Ever since their revolution, their influence has been on the decline, and in spite of all the weak intrigues of their Consul, it is every day approaching nearer to the verge of extinction. His flattery and his promises are treated with contempt. The stories which he fabricates, are discovered to

was made a slave, and who ever since has been the favorite of Gellul the customer, and who has great influence over him. The young man's relations have long ago offered to pay his ransom, but in vain, for the Consul finds him a useful spy in his service.

be of his own invention, and he now finds that truth is the surest way to respect and confidence in Barbary, as well as in Europe. However, all that a weak man in his dotage can do, is done; and his endeavours are treated by the Moors with that pity, with which they in general view the imbecility of old age. He entertains the minions of government in his house, though they are a disgrace to society; and has more or less in his service every one attached to the Bey, who strain every nerve to keep alive the dying ember of French influence. It is curious to observe what arts are resorted to, in order to impress the minds of the government and people, with high ideas of the greatness of the French Ruler. A volume has been carefully composed in the Turkish language, describing in the most lively colours the actions of Bonaparte, and with great care circulated among those most likely to be influenced by it. Last year, a gazette was published in the Italian language, painting in the most exaggerated manner the victory gained by the Sapatapa over the Algerines; in which, he was said to

have killed or taken prisoners upwards of thirty thousand men; but even this turned rather to the disadvantage of the French. Their Consul, proud of his invention, carried his gazette to Bardo, where he had it read and explained to the slave; but he, instead of swallowing the bait, turned to the Consul, and said, " this I believe is like the victories of Bonaparte, thirty thousand in place of seven hundred." More than once has this haughty Georgian treated him with the greatest disrespect. A short time since, the Consul gave a treat to the Sapatapa, and humbled himself to such a degree, as even to serve the slave at dinner. Several times he has gratified him so far, as to carry the woman who lives with him to pay the Sapatapa visits at his country seat; visits which no Christian woman, but such as are of her character, would pay, and by which no Christian Consul but a French one, would support his influence.

The most useful of the French spies at Bardo, are the Bey's physician, a Frenchman, who pays him a visit every morning,

and tells him the news, and the head slave Mariano, a Neapolitan, who reads and translates all papers to the prince.

A most useful emissary of the French, is the Consul of the Dutch nation. Though he hates Frenchmen in his heart, yet to maintain himself in place and favour, he has become the tool and sycophant of both the French and the Barbarian; and, to the utter disgrace of his character, submits to every insult, and stoops to every meanness. Through the influence of the Bey, he enjoys several Consulates, and is employed in every intrigue of moment; to which kind of services his talents are wonderfully adapted.

The other European nations have Consuls in Tunis, who act with propriety, and without interfering much with the politics of one another. The only influence they seek to acquire, is that of being respected, and well treated, as the representatives of their different nations.

Formerly, the only merchants at Tunis, were of the French nation, or of those under her protection. It may be easily supposed, how a people so full of intrigue, would insinuate themselves into the good graces of the inhabitants, as well as into those of the prince, who, through their means, found his revenues considerably increased. Now, this branch of support begins to fail them, from the foolish decrees of their tyrant; and far from being at present the only merchants, every Moor of respectability, speculates both in his own and the European markets, particularly in that of Malta. The French "*funduck*," now farcically named "the hotel of the French Imperial residence," by the comic actor of Corsican representation, formerly filled by merchants of some note, is only inhabited by their Consul, and one or two merchants; who have neither credit nor character, at home or abroad.

The English nation certainly possesses the greatest influence at the court of the Bey. This proceeds from several causes. The first, and it may be said the principal, is her mari-

time superiority; of which not one, even of the Moors themselves, entertains a doubt. The national character, now that Britain is so well known and respected throughout the Mediterranean, for honourable conduct and good faith, bears also a considerable part; for the Moors, however ignorant, yet know to contrast it with the conduct to which they have been accustomed. Another cause which has greatly increased the influence of Britain, is the shutting of the French commerce, by the impolitic decree of Bonaparte; which now forces the Tunisines to have recourse to Malta, both for the sale of their produce and the supply of their wants. Another reason, not the most unimportant, why the influence of England increases, while that of France declines, is the prudent and steady conduct of her representative. He appears to have studied, more than any of his predecessors, the character and manner of the government of Tunis. By justly measuring their force and their weakness, he keeps them in that state of reverence and awe, that they acknowledge the power of the nation which he represents, without feeling too much humbled by it.

And, notwithstanding his endeavours are unsupported by others in power, in the Mediterranean, on points of the greatest national importance, but rather frustrated, he still maintains his character with honour to his country and to himself.

Were Britain to exert her authority on the coasts of Barbary, no power whatever could cope with her in influence: but her policy seems to be different. She appears to crouch to the will of the Barbaresque powers; and as if afraid of giving displeasure, or from the mistaken idea of gaining more favour, blindly agrees to render them every service which they think proper to request.

CHAP. XIV.

Reasons why the European Powers should give their Consuls in Barbary a higher Title: also, why Consuls should be prevented from entering into Commercial Speculations.

THE princes of Barbary being in reality independent of every other power, and of one another, ought in some measure to be considered as such, by the nations who would cultivate their amity. Formerly, perhaps, when their dependence on the Porte was more apparent than at present, it might have been imprudent, and have given offence to the Divan, to have considered them otherwise than as subordinate to the Sultan, and to have given a representative at their courts a higher title than that of Consul. But now that the overgrown power and pride of the Turk has degenerated, and that the princes of the Barbarous states have assumed an

independence, it might be highly prudent and politic, to give to representatives at their courts a title of greater respectability. Perhaps to put them on the same footing with Envoys at the petty courts of Europe, would not be improper. Even should the Consul have the title of Agent or Resident, he would be looked upon by the bigoted and uncultivated Moors with greater veneration, and the subjects who enjoy his protection, would obtain through him a portion of respect.

To an Envoy at the courts of those princes whose residence is at the principal port, a person with the title of Consul would not be a necessary appendage; but a *Chancellor*, (or *Cancellier*,) in most respects dependent on the Envoy, and in every respect amenable to him for his actions, would be sufficient for every necessary purpose. This we have seen at Constantinople; where no nation had more than a Chancellor under the Minister, for the mercantile branch of affairs. The British nation, in order to relieve the mind of the Ambassador from commercial troubles, have, indeed, lately appointed a Consul-

General, who was to take charge of the mercantile interests at Constantinople, and to correspond with all the Consuls at the out-ports; but we have not as yet sufficient experience to say, that the fruit has proved as good as the blossom was fair.

A Chancellor at these courts, would also act as Secretary to the Minister; and the Envoy instead of being obliged to attend at the palace of the prince upon every trivial occurrence, would send his Chancellor. This would have the effect of heightening the importance of the Envoy, who would make his appearance only on particular occasions, whether diplomatic or complimentary.

In the present state of representation, on the coasts of Barbary, it is very improper to permit Consuls to become merchants, or to interfere at all in mercantile speculations. In the state of Tunis, several instances have occurred where either the speculative Consul, or his country, have been sacrificed to the speculations of the prince and his minister. But besides the risk of embroiling himself

with the prince of the country, and his subjects, which, in however trifling a degree, always tends to lessen the Consul's influence, and their respect for him; his engaging in commerce has also a ruinous effect on every person under his protection. Should a dispute arise between a merchant and his Consul, where the Consul is supreme in the court which is to judge, is it to be supposed that the interest of the merchant will be impartially considered? Or, should the merchant dispute with the people of the country, can it be supposed that the Consul will take much interest in supporting his rival? But admitting that no dispute is to arise in mercantile transactions, should the Consul choose to become a speculator in opposition to the merchant, the preponderance of the Consul's influence will always turn the scale to his own interests, and to the ruin of his competitor.

In Tunis, most of the Consuls are permitted to trade, perhaps all, except the French. This may have been, because the other nations had no merchants established in

this city. Few avail themselves of the liberty, and those who do, are actuated more by a patriotic wish than by a thirst of gain.

If it might not be considered presumptuous in an individual to make such a remark, I would observe, that the British government, of all others, pays the least attention to the interest of their country in the choice of their Consuls. Experience may justify, and the love of my country excuse, the seeming presumption of the observation. Few, very few of our Consuls, are adapted to the places which they hold. In choosing her Consuls, France gives Great Britain a lesson. She generally chooses them from among men of abilities; but political interest too often governs our choice. Consulates are given by us as sinecures; and it is considered as of little consequence, whether or not the person appointed knows the duties of the situation to which he is destined. Another great error of the British government may be found in the pay of their Consuls. In many places, the salary attached to the Consulate

is hardly sufficient to keep the Consul alive; much less to enable him to support with any degree of respectability the character he holds. A regular equivalent salary ought to be attached to every Consulate. A board appointed to inspect the conduct of our Consuls, and to correspond with them on subjects interesting to the country, would be of infinite service. That board ought to have the power of recommending to his Majesty the persons who should be Consuls, and be made in some measure responsible for their conduct. In the mercantile world, they would find many men fit to fill those places with honour and advantage; well versed in mercantile laws, and fit to judge in every matter of that nature, with more promptitude and justice than men who have never spent a thought on a commercial arrangement.

Vice-Consuls or Chancellors paid by the country, should also be attached to every Consulate. The Consul would then have a person upon whom he could depend, to advise with and assist him. These also should

be natives of Britain, and of the Protestant faith. Every day, our interests are bought and sold by Roman Catholics. The subjects of no country feel that *amor patriae* which is felt by the British. Nor, I conceive, can a foreigner and a mere hireling, especially when attached to other nations by the common ties of religion, and hostile to ours, feel the same interest in Britain, and in British subjects, as those who, being of the same country and the same faith, are united by the most powerful affections of human nature. It must be allowed, however, that at Tunis we find exceptions to all the foregoing reasonings, and it to is be hoped, that similar exceptions are to be found in other parts. The British Consul seems to have been chosen with judgement, and the French Consul to have been appointed by people who had no knowledge of him; for a weaker and more despicable character, both with regard to his public and moral conduct, certainly could not have been found. His veracity is called in question upon every public transaction, and his private life is in violation of every law

human or divine. But the French nation have numbers attached to their Consulate, who make amends for his childishness; whereas the British Consul stands alone, assisted by a young Jew, who, although one of the most active and intelligent in the country, is still no patriot, and is not even paid by the country.

CHAP. XV.

Of the Tariff, by which the Duty is levied on Goods Imported by the British, into the Regency of Tunis.

ALL goods imported into the regency of Tunis, except ammunition, are subject to a duty *ad valorem*; which duty, it has been before observed, is more or less according to the treaties of different nations with the Bey. Thus, the British only pay three per cent. on all merchandise they import; the French, three per cent. on what they bring from their own country, under their own flag, and eight per cent. when it is imported in any other manner. Those nations which have made their treaties more lately, have uniformly inserted the condition, that they are to pay the same duties as the most favoured nations. The people of the country pay eleven per cent. on all goods which they

import, except goods from the Levant, for which they pay only five per cent.

To fix these duties, a tariff has been made between the Bey and the British, which is now also adopted by the other European nations. At what period this tariff was made, it is impossible to determine, as the original has been either lost or mislaid; but from the prices at which the articles are valued, it cannot have been more than half a century ago.

The following is a copy of the tariff, taken from a scroll found in the British Chancery, or *Cancellaria*.

“ Tariff, according to which all merchandise imported by the Subjects of his Britannic Majesty, pay a duty, or custom, of three per cent. at Tunis, ad valorem, as follows:

Piasters.

Vermilion of Portugal

and the Morea, - per Cantar, 350

Cochineal, - - - per Rotolo, 12

Piasters.

Gum lac, - - - - per cantar,	70
Do. red, - - - - do.	40
Do. black, - - - - do.	10
Pernambucco wood, - - do.	40
Campeachy do. - - do.	12
Alum rock, - - - - do.	12
Do. Levant, - - - - do.	8
Verdigris, - - - - do.	100
Vitriol, - - - - do.	7
Tartar, - - - - do.	18
Red and white lead, - - do.	15
Indigo, - - - - do.	40
Coral, - - - - per 100 pieces,	10
Mercury, (sublimate,) - per rotolo,	3
Quicksilver, - - - - do.	2½
Raw silk, - - - - do.	6
Cloves, - - - - do.	10
Nutmeg, - - - - do.	5
Cinnamon, - - - - do.	3
Cassia, - - - - do.	2
Saffron, - - - - do.	10
Opium, - - - - do.	4
Gum benzoin, - - - - do.	2½
Musk, - - - -	free
Tea, - - - - do.	4

Piasters.

Orpiment, - - - per cantar,	12
Tin, in bars, - - - do.	60
Do. in plates, - per 100 plates,	12
Brass, in plates, - - per cantar,	100
Do. in wire, - - - do.	70
Iron, in bars, - - - do.	10
Do. in wire, - - - do.	60
Do. in do. (ordinary) - do.	25
Steel, - - - - do.	15
Nails, - - - per 250 rotoli,	45
Carding combs, - - - per pair,	3
Gun-barrels, mounted, - each,	12
Do. unmounted, - do.	5
Pistols, mounted, - - - do.	10
Do. do. if fine, - - - valued.	
Silks, damask, 1st quality, per pike,	2½
Do. do. 2d do. do.	2
Do. satin, - - - do.	2
Do. double taffety, - - do.	2
Do. single do. - - - do.	1
Do. Venetian soie, - - do.	6
Do. velvet, - - - - do.	5
Fine Cloths, French, - per 1 piece,	150
Do. do. Dutch, - - do.	75
Do. do. Bristol, - - do.	60

Piasters.

Fine cloths, Nîmes, - per 1/4 piece,	60
Perpetuans or long ells, per piece,	25
Do. - - - scarlet, - - - do.	30
Spanish wool, - - - per cantar,	186
White thread, called <i>salve</i> , do.	75
Coloured do. - - - - do.	100
Pack - - do. - - - - do.	15
Dimity, - - - - per piece,	15
Muslin, of 10 yards, - - do.	8
Flowered dimity, - - - do.	12
Do. - - do. (ordinary) do.	8
Cambric, - - - - do.	8
Do. - - Holland, - - do.	20
Do. small piece called <i>rise</i> , do.	31
Barcelona silk handkerchiefs, per doz.	12
Sugar, loaf, - - - - per cantar,	35
Do. candied, - - - do.	60
Do. Muscovado, - - do.	22
Manna, - - - - do.	150
Liquorice, - - - - do.	20
Coffee, Möcca, - - - do.	100
Do. West India, - - do.	50
Almonds, - - - - do.	20
Nuts, - - - - do.	10
Chesnuts, - - - - do.	15

Piasters.

Apples, - - - - -	per cantar,	6
Honey, - - - - -	do.	10
Cheese, - - - - -	do.	10
Raisins, - - - - -	do.	4
Rice, - - - - -	do.	5
Pepper, - - - - -	do.	70
All spice, - - - - -	do.	60
Ginger, - - - - -	do.	15
Aloes, - - - - -	do.	60
Gum ammoniac, - - - - -	do.	100
Do. mastic, - - - - -	do.	150
Incense, - - - - -	do.	50
Herrings or pilchards, -	per barrel,	20
Salmon, - - - - -	do.	30
Sardinias, (large anchovies,)	do.	15
Asafoetida, -	per cantar,	100
Chocolate, -	do.	50
Small beads, -	do.	25
Vitriol of Cyprus, (copperas,)	do.	50
Arsenic, - - - - -	do.	15
Sassaparilla, - - - - -	do.	100
Sal ammoniac, - - - - -	do.	50
Galls, black, - - - - -	do.	25
Do. white, - - - - -	do.	15
Brimstone, - - - - -	do.	7

	<i>Piasters.</i>
Rhubarb, - - - per rotolo,	10
Camphor, - - - - do.	4
Brown paper, - - per bale,	25
Writing do. - - per ream,	2
Calf skins, - - - per dozen,	12
Boards, from Venice, per 100,	150
Do. Sweden, - do.	100
Do. Messina, - do.	90
Rafters or joists, - - do.	50
Glass, - , - - - per chest,	7½
Small boxes of looking glasses p. box,	25
Empty bottles, - - - per 100,	8

According to this tariff, all goods imported by the British into Tunis, have, ever since it was established, paid a custom of three per cent.; but as most of the articles are now worth from one hundred to nearly two hundred per cent. more, it may be said, that they pay only from one to one and a half per cent. All ammunition has free import; and although guns, gun-barrels, and pistols, are enumerated in the tariff, yet they actually pay no duty.

On the exports of Tunis, we find no tariff was agreed upon at the time that the imports were made; only a small note is added, which mentions, that "Barilla, valued at one and a half piasters per cantar, paid five per cent. Morocco skins of all colours, valued at one piaster each, paid five per cent: wool paid four carrubs, per cantar, whether washed or unwashed: sponges valued at ten piasters, per cantar, paid three per cent.; and that red scull-caps, paid one and a quarter piaster per chest."

The tescare for the exportation of wheat, was then at twenty-two and a half piasters per cassis; barley, at eleven and a quarter; and beans, canary seeds, and lentils, at four and a half piasters per cassis.

By a law of long standing, prize goods brought into Tunis, pay no dues at the custom-house, belong to whatever nation they may.

CHAP. XVI.

*Reasons for the decline of Commerce in the States of
Barbary; particularly that of Tunis.*

THE commerce of the states of Barbary has been hitherto very little known to British merchants. France has, at all times, paid great attention to the cultivation of it; and has found by this means, a fertile supply of valuable produce, both for her own use, and for that of her neighbours, and at the same time, a lucrative, and not inconsiderable, market for many of her own works of industry and art. Until of late, the French considered the coast of Barbary as their own; even still, although they are unable to carry on the commerce themselves, they look upon all the merchants of other countries, as intruders on their territory, and the diversion of the stream of commerce into a new channel, as depriving them of an

advantage, which, from long possession, they consider as exclusively their property.

The trade on the coast of Barbary, has certainly declined considerably of late years. But though this commerce was at a former period much more extensive and lucrative, and might once, perhaps, have been more worthy the attention of a nation; yet notwithstanding the low state to which it is reduced, it merits well the attention of merchants. It particularly merits the attention of Britain, at the present moment; when every nerve should be strained, and every mean improved, to increase the consumption of our own manufactures, to lessen that of our enemy, and to show the powers of Barbary, that Britain can protect them, and supply their wants more completely than any other nation.

The trade of Tunis is the most respectable of any on the coast of Barbary; though like that of the other powers, it was, not many years since, much more respectable than at the present moment. It was not

uncommon, to see hundreds of ships lying in the roads of Tunis, and at the Goletta; also great numbers at all her out-ports, loading the rich productions of her soil, to satisfy the wants of Spain, Italy, and France.

Spain in particular, drew from the states of Barbary a great portion of the grain which she used. Italy and France, drew from them oil, hides, and wool, both for the consumption of the inhabitants, and the supply of their manufactures; but particularly from Tunis, where these articles are better and more abundant than in any of the other states. This traffic has for some years entirely ceased. It is rare to see now more than half a dozen vessels at Tunis, and more than one at a time at any of the out-ports; and these are of a very small burthen.

The reasons for this decline of commerce in the state of Tunis, are many; and, in several instances, they are the same with those which uniformly prevail in every country under a military or despotic government. There, no regular system of law is laid down,

and still less is pursued for the protection of the subject against the tyranny and caprice of the prince; and wealth, or even the appearance of it, subjects the possessor and his family to the jealousy and oppression of the government for several generations.

The famine which did so much mischief in the regency of Tunis, (1805,) induced the Bey to prohibit the exportation of grain from his state; and as plenty was not for some seasons restored, he has not as yet deemed it prudent to remove his prohibition. Grain being the chief article which drew ships to his ports, that branch of traffic has been entirely destroyed. Now that the crops are abundant, were he again to permit exportation, it is much to be doubted whether, under the present circumstances, it would resume its former activity. Even Malta will be more easily and more naturally supplied from Sicily, as long as the British government find it necessary to keep possession of that luxuriant island.

The war which has for such a length of time unhinged the commercial system of

Europe, has undoubtedly had a great effect on the commerce of the states of Barbary. The northern shores of the Mediterranean, offered a ready market for all their staple productions; and, from their vicinity, gave a prompt return to all their wants. But though the war in Europe has had a considerable influence on the decline of commerce in these states; yet it would by no means be so great, did their ignorant and bigoted rulers know how to avail themselves of that neutrality which the friendship and mistaken policy of Britain, has continued to grant them. This neutrality, if improved, would become an immense source of riches to all those princes, particularly to the Bey of Tunis, who enjoys the most productive country. But buried in ignorance and avarice, the methods which he pursues, tend only to oppress his subjects, not to encourage them to industry and enterprise.

The war between Tunis and Algiers, has certainly had a more ruinous effect on these states, than that which has devastated Europe. The commerce carried on be-

tween those two states was not inconsiderable; now they have not the smallest communication with each other. The state of warfare also which they pursue with their armed banditti, is so changing, and uncertain in its nature and effects, from their mutual cowardice and ignorance, that the confidence and security of the subjects in both states are greatly impaired.

One branch of Tunisine manufacture and export, has considerably decreased during the late years. The scull-caps manufactured in Tunis, are more esteemed than any others. They are worn by all Mussulmans, Greeks, Armenians, and Jews, who wear the oriental dress. Formerly Tunis alone enjoyed that manufacture; now Marseilles, Leghorn, and other parts, vie with her in those articles; and though they have never been able to make them equal in quality, they have made them at so low a price, as to reduce very much the demand for those of Tunis. May it not be presumed, however, that if the present war continue, this branch of trade, so lucrative formerly to the subjects of

Tunis, will revive; since the other manufacturers are not able to send their goods to the Levant?

A more substantial reason for the decline of the commerce of Tunis, still remains to be mentioned; namely, the ill advised conduct of the Bey. From an ill directed desire of gain, he has not only become a merchant himself, but also permits the whole of his ministers, and the people of his court, to follow his example. The produce or manufacture which the subject brought to market, he could formerly dispose of to the highest bidder; now it is laid hold of by the rapacity of these princely and diplomatic merchants, and if paid for, which is not always the case, it is paid at the price they choose to give, and at which the cultivator or manufacturer cannot afford to sell. The mischievous effect of this, both on trade and manufactures, must obviously be very great.

This was the case last December, (1807,) when the Bey cheated the British Admiral

out of a permission to send a vessel to Smyrna, under escort of a Swedish frigate, for the purpose of bringing troops. He took by force from all the cap manufacturers, what they had on hand, and hardly paid them the value of the wool. More was gained by that cargo of caps than would have ransomed all the slaves in Tunis, taken under British colours; and their liberty would have been the price of the permission, had it only been asked!

The French mention the opening of the trade in 1781, as a reason for the decline of their commerce on the coast of Barbary. Before that period, no merchants but such as were of the French nation, could trade from France to Barbary, unless under an impost of twenty per cent. Since that period, they say, their trade has decreased very considerably. In place of twelve respectable domiciliated houses, which carried on a lucrative trade, and also several Italian establishments of some consideration, we find now (1808) only two miserable French houses, both of which in one year hardly

do as much business as any one of the former was wont to do in a month; and of the Italian establishments, we find one, or two Genoese remaining, which do little else than keep wine cellars, to supply the Christians and slaves. Any little commerce which is now carried on with the opposite coast of Europe, is carried on by Moors, Jews, or the Christian subjects of the Bey; when they dare vie in their speculations with the prince and his ministers.

CHAP. XVII.

*Of the Weights, Measures, and Monies of Tunis,
compared with one another, and with those of
other Countries.*

BEFORE giving a sketch of the commerce of Tunis, it may not be improper to take a view of the monies, weights, and measures, of the country, and to draw some comparison between them, and those of other countries.

The money current in Tunis, that is, the money *proper* of the country, is divided into burbins, aspers, carubs, and piasters; there is also a gold piece called a mahboob.

12 burbins, = 1 asper.

$3\frac{1}{4}$ aspers, = 1 carub.

16 carubs, = 1 piaster.

$4\frac{1}{2}$ piasters, = 1 mahboob.

These are the current monies of the country, but in mercantile transactions, no other is known but the piaster and carub.

The commerce of Tunis was, till very lately, confined to Marseilles and Leghorn, and very rarely, indeed, did money transactions take place with any other country. The par of exchange between Tunis and Marseilles, is fixed at thirty-three sous per piaster, and with Leghorn, at 300 piasters of Tunis for 100 *pieces of the rose*, or as we say, of *eight rials in silver*.

But although France and Italy were the two countries which formerly engrossed the trade of Tunis, other countries begin now to share in the trade, and have also a par fixed for their different monies.

The par of exchange between Malta and Tunis, has been fixed at twenty-four carubs per scude of Malta; with Messina, at nine piasters and six carubs the ounce; with Genoa, at forty-two soldi fuori banco for the piaster; with London, at fifteen piasters

for the pound sterling; and with Smyrna, at fifteen carubs for the piaster of Turkey.

Exchange operations, at present, are not very frequent; but the few which have been done this Spring, (1808,) have been at the following rates:

London,	at	15 piasters.
Marseilles,	—	29 sous.
Leghorn,	—	330 piasters.
Malta,	—	24 carubs.
Genoa,	—	87 soldi.
Trieste,	—	1½ piasters per florin.
Messina,	—	8 piasters.
Smyrna,	—	14 carubs.

Bills are drawn at fifty days after sight, unless particularly stipulated for.

Besides the coins of the country, those of several other nations are current in Tunis at variable prices.

The Spanish *pillar* dollar, is at present current for three piasters and eight carubs;

dollars of Maria Theresa, are worth one carub less; the Venetian zechin is at nine piasters, and doubloons at fifty-five piasters. These monies have also a par value fixed to them in the country, which it may not be improper to mention. The Spanish dollar is worth at par $3\frac{1}{4}$ piasters, when at that price the Bey buys them up for his treasury, or to coin them into his own money; that of Maria Theresa, three piasters and three carubs; the Venetian zechin, seven piasters and ten carubs; and the doubloon, fifty piasters.

The weights used in the state, are composed of ounces, rotoli, and cantars, or kintals.

16 ounces, = 1 rotolo.

100 rotoli, = 1 cantar, or kintal.

In comparing these weights with those of other countries, it is found that five rotoli of Tunis, give only three of Malta; that eighty rotoli make one hundred and twelve pounds of Leghorn, one hundred of Mar.

seilles, eighty-seven and one-half of England, and one hundred and ninety-six of Barcelona.

The long measure of Tunis is called the pike. There are no less than three different pikes, which are used for measuring different sorts of merchandise. The first pike, with which linen, &c. manufactured in the interior, is measured, is only nineteen and a half English inches: that again which is used for manufactures in general, and called the Turkish pike, is of twenty-five inches: and the pike with which they buy cloth, is of twenty-seven inches, or three quarters of an English yard. Giving thus the measures of Tunis in inches, it will be unnecessary to compare them with those of other countries.

The corn measure of Tunis is divided into zahs, whebas, and caffis:—

12 zahs, = 1 wheba.

16 whebas, = 1 caffis.

And it is said, that one wheba of good wheat will weigh fifty rotoli.

On a comparison of these measures with those of other countries, we find that one *caffis* makes $1\frac{1}{2}$ quarters of England— $7\frac{1}{2}$ sacks of Leghorn—10 cantars of Marseilles— $7\frac{1}{2}$ quarterns or $10\frac{1}{2}$ faneghe of Spain—and 1 *salm* and 14 *tumoli* of Malta.

The oil measure is called a *metal*, and weighs thirty-two *rotoli* of the country.

On comparing the oil measure with those of other countries, it is found that 100 *metals* make 513 English gallons, and weigh nearly 34 lbs. English per *metal*; in Leghorn, that 2 *metals* make 1 barrel or 88 lbs; in Marseilles, that $3\frac{1}{2}$ *metals* make 1 *mezerol*; in Barcelona, that 1 *metal* makes $4\frac{2}{3}$ *quartans*; and that in Malta, 100 *metals* make 93 *caffis*.

The *metal* is of different sizes in all the parts of Tunis where oil is loaded; but the foreign calculations are made in the *metal* of Tunis, to which the rest bear the following proportions: 100 *metals* of Biserta, make

110 of Tunis—100 of Monastera, 120 of Tunis—100 of Susa, 125 of Tunis—100 of Media or L'Africa, 130 of Tunis—100 of Sfax, $137\frac{1}{2}$ of Tunis—and 100 of Soliman, 140 of Tunis. The measure of Porto Farina and Tunis is the same.

CHAP. XVIII.

The Exports of the Regency of Tunis; of what they Consist, and their Extent.

THE regency of Tunis is rich in articles of export; but they are not of the greatest variety. They consist in grain of different kinds, oil of divers qualities, wool, hides, wax, soap, and several articles of less consideration.

Grain.

The wheat of Tunis is of a very excellent quality, and is that which, in the Levant, is called albanian or hard grain. The grain is round and short, having a thin skin, and a fine gold colour.

Before the famine mentioned in a preceding chapter, the exportation of grain of all kinds was permitted from Tunis; since

that period it has been prohibited. In a plentiful year, the state of Tunis is computed to produce 480,000 *caffis* of wheat; and were encouragement given to its cultivation, ten times that quantity might be produced.

The barley of Tunis is also good. The quantity which is produced through the state, is computed to equal, if not to exceed, that of wheat. Of beans, about 12,000 *caffis* are produced: and of Indian corn, about the half of that quantity.

Indian corn is merely sown as a second crop; and, therefore, it is more scanty in an abundant year than in one of scarcity. For the husbandman makes a second attempt only when the first has disappointed his hopes.

The exportation of grain is subject to a duty or *gabel*; which must be purchased from the Bey; but the price not being fixed, it varies according to his interest or caprice. This permission for exportation, is called a *tescare*, or order of the prince; and

all his orders bear the same name. During the reign of the present Bey, the price of a tescare for any one article, which is the produce of the state, has been augmented very considerably; those for grain are so high, that seldom, indeed, will it prove advantageous for any private person to speculate in that article for a foreign market. The last granted for grain, were at the following prices, which it is expected will continue the same through this year:

Wheat, per caffis, 36 piasters.

Barley, do. 18 do.

Oil.

It is computed that, in a good year, the regency will produce one million metals of oil of olives. Every third year, a greater crop of olives is expected.

The oil of Tunis may be said to be of two qualities, in every part of the regency where it is made. One-fourth is fine eating oil, so little inferior to that of Tuscany, or Genoa, that it is often sold in those countries as

their own, and used as such by their inhabitants: three-fourths consist of oil calculated for the use of different manufactures of cloth, soaps, &c. But besides this difference in the quality of the oil of every part of the regency, there is also a difference not inconsiderable in the quality of the oil, in each district. In judging of these oils, the connoisseurs pretend to distinguish by the smell, the different qualities, which they determine to be six; yet they allow, that between the best and the worst, there is not a difference of more than fifteen per cent.

They arrange them in the following manner: *viz.*

Soliman oil,	- - -	1st quality
Tunis do.	- - -	1st do.
Media or L'Africa do.	- - -	2d do.
Porto Farino do.	- - -	2d do.
Susa do.	- - -	3d do.
Monastera do.	- - -	4th do.
Sfax do.	- - -	5th do.
Biserta do.	- - -	6th do.

The exportation of oil from Tunis, is also at the caprice of the Bey; who fixes the price of the tescare upon the probable demand which may be for the article. Last year, and at present, the price has been as high as two piasters and one-half per metal, of Tunis measure.

Wool.

Wool is one of the most extensive articles of export from the regency. It is computed that France and Italy, in time of peace, export from Tunis annually, twenty thousand cantars of this article.

The wool of Tunis is of many different qualities; one kind is said to be little inferior to the best of Spain; and it is affirmed, that the French, who buy it in France, wash it, assort it, and send it back to the country as Spanish wool, to be used in the manufacture of caps. Some are more ordinary, and others very coarse. In this mixed state, the wool is shipped for Marseilles, where it is purchased for the manufactures of Languedoc, and is there washed and assorted, according to its different qualities.

The wool of the different parts of the regency, is also of various kinds and qualities, even in the first instance. It is of more or less value, according to the part of the country from which it comes; on account of the quantity of dust and sand which are mixed with it, to increase its weight, and which each district has its different manner of mixing. In one part, the shepherds have a very curious method of making the wool imbibe the sand. In dry weather, before sheep-shearing, they hunt their flocks upon the sand, until they are in a high state of perspiration; the sand flying in clouds, mixes with the wool, and adheres to it in consequence of the perspiration. This they repeat for several days, and sometimes a greater weight of sand is dried into the fleece, than the real weight of clean wool. The particles too, are so fine, that they penetrate into the pores of the wool, and cannot without the greatest difficulty, be separated from it. From this practice, the loss on washing is extremely great. It is said that the wool of the environs of the city of Tunis, loses on washing about forty per cent.; that of

Susa, from forty-five to fifty; and that of Sfax, from fifty to fifty-five per cent.

The proper season for buying wool, is in the month of June, when the Arabs bring it to market. By buying from them, in small quantities, the price runs sometimes a little higher than by buying in large quantities from speculators; yet, in the end, it will be found the cheapest method. For these speculators not only take out the wool of finer qualities, but also mix mire, sand, and filth, with what they sell, to increase the weight.

The exportation of wool is not under any very rigid restriction. It belongs to a company, who farm the privilege from the Bey, and exact only a duty on that which is exported, of one piaster per cantar; which rate is fixed by the prince. An immense quantity of the finest kind of wool, is consumed in the country, particularly about Jerba; where shawls are made to a very considerable amount, and of a beautiful texture, resembling the shawl of Cashmere,

and worn by all persons of rank in the regency. At Jerba, they also manufacture great quantities of cloaks, called *beznouses*, worn by rich and poor; and blankets which are light and warm. The wool used in these manufactures, is of the finest quality, and is very little, if at all, inferior to the best of Spain.

Hides.

Hides form an article of export from Tunis, of no small consideration. The war with Algiers, has done great injury to this branch of commerce, as the greatest proportion of the quantity exported, came from that part which is near the frontiers of both countries. At present, it is computed that not more than one hundred thousand hides are collected in a year.

Hides are farmed to a company, who have the sole privilege of sending them out of the country. Of this company, notice shall be taken when we consider the farms or monopolies which form part of the revenue of the state. The hides of Tunis are but small,

and are collected throughout the country, by persons employed by the company. At Tunis, they are salted for exportation. The price of hides is fixed by the company; who also themselves export both to France and Italy, and now to Malta, the greater part of what they collect. Eight salted hides weigh about one English hundred weight. Those which come from the confines, are all dried, and are sold by weight, whereas the salted are sold by the hide.

Wax.

The bees' wax produced in the state, is of a very good quality; and formerly was bought up for the Leghorn market. The quantity collected in one year, does not exceed two hundred and fifty cantars. The exportation of wax, depends upon the same company who have the monopoly of wool and hides. They export the greater part of it themselves to Leghorn and Malta, unless they obtain equal terms in Tunis; respecting which they are well informed.

Soap.

Soap is made in the regency of Tunis, to a considerable amount. The barilla of the country is extremely good, and though no quantity is made for exportation, there is still a sufficiency for any quantity of soap that may be required.

It is impossible to ascertain what quantity of soap is made in the regency, as it depends entirely upon the demand; but any quantity may be procured at a very short notice. It is of two kinds, soft, and in wedges. The soft soap is made from barilla and pure oil, and is much esteemed. The hard soap is made from the lees of the oil, and is reckoned very strong. Susa is the principal place where it is manufactured, but it is made in smaller quantities in many places of the state. May it not be supposed that in times of war, when Britain is excluded from the Baltic, and the countries whence she draws tallow for her soap manufactures, that this article might be brought from Tunis, to supply in some measure her wants? The quality of both kinds is good, and the price is reasonable.

When buying soap in wedges, great care ought to be taken to ascertain its age, as new soap will dry up to perhaps forty per cent. less weight. But soft soap in jars, loses but little in weight, and it is only necessary to observe, that the quality be good, and that the bottom of the jar corresponds with its top.

These are the chief articles for export, which are the natural produce of the state; but exclusive of them, are several others of smaller note, and others which are brought into Tunis from the interior of the country, and from the other neighbouring states.

Dates, the fruit of the palm-tree, are brought from the interior, and are annually shipped for France, Italy, and Malta, to the amount of three thousand cantars.

Senna is another article which is brought from the interior of Africa to Tunis, to the extent of about five hundred cantars.

Madder-roots are brought in very great quantities, from the interior, and from the

confines of Tripoly, to this regency for a market. The quality of this root here, is much like that of Smyrna, but it looks fresher and cleaner, and is more reasonable in price.

The Coral fishery on the coast of Tunis, about the island of Tabarka, merits also to be mentioned. It is impossible to give any correct idea of this fishery, as the people are either too ignorant or too cunning to communicate full information respecting it. Taking an average of years, about one hundred and fifty boats are employed in it, each manned by ten persons. These fishermen are generally from Sicily, or from Naples; and each boat pays a certain sum for the permission. What they fish, is either brought to Tunis, sold at Tabarka, or carried to Italy and France.

The value of this fishery must appear considerable, when we observe that the French nation maintains on the island a Consul, and some other people, to attend to their interests.

Oil of Roses.

The oil of roses made at Tunis, is of an excellent quality. This would not merit a place among the exports of the country, but from its particularly fine quality, especially that of the white rose. The quantity is too small to form an article of trade. It is chiefly consumed in the country; and although the oil of roses from the Levant, is abundant and much used, yet that of the *nisere* or white rose of Tunis, is so much esteemed, that where the former sells for five piasters the metical, the latter will render from seventy to eighty piasters for the same quantity.

Ostrich Feathers.

Ostrich feathers were formerly an article of exportation from Tunis to Leghorn. They were brought from the interior of Africa, by the caravans of *Gdamsia*. During these few years past, they have not been brought in such quantities as formerly, perhaps on account of the difficulty of transporting them to Italy; but there is no doubt that if they were sought for, they would again become abundant.

CHAP. XIX.

*Of the Caravans which arrive at, and depart from,
the City of Tunis.*

In the course of the year, several caravans arrive at the city of Tunis; the chief of which are those from the interior of Africa, and those from Constantine, and the confines of Algiers. Several other caravans come from those parts of the state which are at a distance from the capital; but the commerce which is carried on through them, seems to be inconsiderable.

In the course of the year, three caravans arrive from the interior of Africa, called the caravans of *Gdamsia*. These caravans bring into the state, gold dust, senna, ostrich feathers, and black slaves. They are not by any means reckoned rich; though some bring to the number of two hundred slaves.

The returns taken by the caravans of Gdamsia, are in cloth, muslin, linen, silk, a kind of red leather for shoes, spices, and cochineal for the dying of the silk; of which last article, it is computed that they carry off annually to the amount nearly of fifty cantars. Excepting in this article, their returns can be of no great amount; nor does the arrival of the caravan cause any great sensation in the market. It was not thus with the caravans from Constantine, when the trade with that place was open. The caravans from that quarter used to come regularly once in the month, and were both valuable in themselves, and lucrative to the trader. In cash alone, they brought about one hundred thousand Spanish dollars, which were invested in returns from Tunis, or in bills of exchange on the different parts of Europe. These dollars were all cut into small pieces; a circumstance much liked by the Jews, as it gave them a better opportunity of exercising, with success, their well known talents.

The staple articles brought by the caravan of Constantine, were various kinds of dried

hides, some of wild beasts, others of black cattle; bees' wax, some manufacture for the consumption of the country, and an immense number of sheep and oxen.

The returns they took, consisted in cloth, muslin, linen, silk both raw and wrought, colonial produce, scull-caps, drugs, essenies, and spices.

The caravans of Constantine were very beneficial to Tunis, and gave a great circulation to the articles of export, as well as to those of import. The want of them is, of course, much lamented by the mercantile part of the community; who execrate the Algerine war as much on that account, as for the uncertainty and uneasiness which in other respects it occasions them.

The principal caravans from the distant parts of the regency of Tunis, are those which come from Jerba, and bring the woollen manufactures of that country, so much worn by all clases of the inhabitants. The returns which they take are very trivial;

yet in a small degree, they take off some of the imported articles, both colonial and manufactured.

Caravans arrive from Gerid, the country of dates; but the only articles which they bring, are the fruit of the palm-tree, and a few woollen stuffs of the coarsest manufacture. The returns which they take are also very trifling; perhaps, a small quantity of manufactured goods, and a little sugar and coffee.

CHAP. XX.

Of the principal Manufactures in the Regency of Tunis: particularly those of Scull-Caps, Woollen Stuffs, and Morocco Leather.

ARTS and manufactures, as will be easily believed, are in a low state in the regency of Tunis. In the whole state, besides soap, which has been already mentioned, we only find three manufactures of any note: caps, woollen stuffs, and Morocco leather.

Tunis, for ages, has been famous for the manufacture of scull-caps, so generally worn by Mussulmans, Jews, and Christians, of every description, who shave their heads and wear the oriental dress.

At a former period, Tunis was almost the only country in which these caps were manufactured, but within these few years,

they have been imitated both at Leghorn and Marseilles. The quantity thus manufactured, and the low price at which they have been brought into the market, have considerably lessened the demand for those of Tunis, but have not had the effect of lessening their reputation; for those made in Europe, are neither equal in colour, fineness, nor strength, to those made in Tunis.

This manufacture is, without doubt, the most lucrative enjoyed by the subjects of the Bey. It gives food to thousands of the inhabitants, and causes a great circulation of wealth throughout the state. At a moderate calculation, it employed formerly upwards of fifty thousand persons, and three thousand bales of Spanish wool were annually used in it. At present, it is reduced to hardly one-third of its original extent. The balance in favour of Tunis by this manufacture, formerly amounted to about seven millions of piasters annually, between the price of the wool and dyes imported, and the caps sent out of the country. Even now, should one-third remain, it is no small source of wealth

derived from one branch of manufacture, to a state like Tunis.

The manner of making these caps, is as follows: The wool is first combed and spun into a coarse soft thread, which is twined, and knit into caps of a conical form, like a night-cap. These are next soaked in oil; and, on a form put upon the knee of the manufacturer, are milled down, by turning and rubbing the sides together. By this process, they are reduced to about one-third of their original size. When the cap begins to become thick, great care is taken to bring out the nap. This is done by brushing it down with a curious long *bur*, which nature seems to have made for the purpose. A pair of large sheers is used to clip off the parts of the wool which may be too long for the beauty of the manufacture. The caps thus reduced, brushed, and clipped, become of the form of a semi-globe. In this state they are sent to Zawan, about 30 miles distant from Tunis, where they are dyed, for the most part, of a deep crimson colour. It is worthy of observation, that the water at

Zawan is the only water in the whole regency which can be used for this purpose. It has the quality of giving a particular richness to the dye; and it is even disputed whether any other water can give a colour so beautiful and so well fixed, for the colour never fades. The caps thus dyed, are returned to the manufacturer; are milled again somewhat thicker, combed, and clipped with still greater care than before; and finally, dressed in a manner so elegant, that they actually appear to be made of rich velvet.

It is an erroneous opinion that the caps of Tunis are knit double, like a double cone, or a double night-cap. They are entirely single, and it is only in the milling that the edge of the cap assumes the appearance of being double.

After having gone through all the operations described, the cap is carefully examined by the master of the shop or factory, and all its faulty parts are corrected. A neat tassel of mazarine blue silk thread is then

sewed to the top, and it is considered as finished.

The manufacture of caps in Tunis, is upon an establishment which would do no discredit to an European country, and is much superior to what could have been expected, under such a government, and in such a state of society as that of Tunis.

The Bey fixes annually the price of Spanish wool for this manufacture; in which he is naturally guided by the advice of the manufacturer, as well as by his own private observation. By this means, the speculator in Spain or other parts, knows what price he may obtain in Tunis. No buyer is allowed to give more than the established price, and many regulations are laid down to prevent monopoly. For instance, no person can buy a whole parcel of wool, if it exceed five bales; and the whole must be examined by the *Amina*, or chief of the trade. Every branch of trade in the regency, is also adjusted by a committee of the traders themselves, from which an *Amina* is elected. All

disputes are decided by him; and the disputants if they are not satisfied with his determination, can have recourse to the Bey.

The *Amina* judges of the quality of the wool in the market, and makes such divisions of it, as to prevent all kinds of monopoly, and to keep every manufacturer employed. But any cap-maker or holder, who pleases to speculate in Europe, and import wool into Tunis, can manufacture, if he chooses, the whole extent of his speculation for his own account.

Another regulation is, that all caps, when finished, must be examined by the *Amina*, before they are put into paper; otherwise they are liable to confiscation. By this means, the character of the caps of Tunis is sustained.

Many different kinds are made, both for the use of Tunis, and the different states of Barbary; and also for the Levant, where their chief market lies. The caps made for the Levant, are of three different qualities. The

first are called *Stambol* caps, which are those used by a part of the soldiery of the grand Seignior, and are very large. A bale of wool of two cantars, will render only twenty-five dozen of this description. The second are called *Sakis*, or Sciots, from the island of Scio. They are worn by all the Turks, Greeks, Armenians, and Jews, wearing the long dress, and even by the soldiers, under those which are large. One hundred dozen of these are produced from a bale of wool. The third are called *Haram*, from being worn by the fair sex and children. These are still smaller than the last mentioned; a bale of wool, will render two hundred dozen of this kind. Besides these, which are perfect in their several sorts, there is a kind called *Bastardi*; which are such as for the character of the manufacture, are separated from the rest, and sold as faulty.

The woollen stuffs manufactured in the regency, principally at Jerba, are of a thin texture, resembling in some degree a soft serge. They are made from the finest wool produced in the country, and are really of

good workmanship. All classes of Moors, who have any covering, are dressed, more or less, in this manufacture. Thousands have no other dress than a scull-cap, and a blanket thrown round the body and shoulders in several turns. Others have turbans and girdles of woollen; and almost all have a cloak, or *Bernous*, as it is called. The fair sex have a robe of woollen gauze thrown round them, some with silk stripes; and many of them wear shawls, both long and square, of the same species of manufacture. This kind of woollen stuff is also used for blankets, which are soft, light, and warm. But besides the immense quantities which are used in the country in these various ways, a great portion is exported both to Europe and the Levant. The shawls are dyed of different brilliant colours, and are to be seen in every part and city of Turkey.

It is impossible to give a true idea of the extent of this manufacture. Thousands are employed in it, in different parts of the state; and it consumes annually, thousands of cantars of wool.

The manufacture of Morocco leather, is also considerable. Great quantities of dyed skins, are annually exported from the country, and as almost all the Moors wear red leather slippers, or boots, the consumption of this article in the regency, is by no means trifling.

CHAP. XXI.

Of the Monopolies in the Regency of Tunis.

LIKE every ignorant prince, who neither knows his own real interest, nor studies that of his people, the Bey of Tunis not only suffers, but encourages monopolies in his state.

At present, many of the principal articles produced in the country, are farmed out to the highest bidders; and it will not be at all surprising, if even grain and oil, which are yet free, should be disposed of in the same manner.

The principal of these “*appalti*” (as they are called) on the articles of export, is called the “*giornati*,” and is in the hands of a company of Jews. This *appalto* is upon hides, wool, wax, and tobacco. The half of

this company must consist of Jews of the country, who wear turbans; and the other half, of European Jews, who wear hats.

The *giornati* collect through the state all the hides which are to be found; for which they pay the miserable price of five carubs each, to the people of the country. By their agents in all quarters, these are sent to Tunis, where they are spread out and salted; for the hides of Tunis are always shipped salted. At a former period, the *giornati* collected annually, from two to three hundred thousand. At present, they themselves say, that the number does not exceed one hundred thousand. It is probable that a diminution has taken place, as the war with Algiers cuts off the great supply of cattle which came from Constantine; but from the anxiety shown by the Jews to become members of this company, it may easily be supposed that they do not tell the *whole* truth.

These hides the company either ship for their own account, or sell in the country for exportation, as they find it best answer their

purpose. But the greatest part is shipped for their own account; and few, indeed, are better informed of the state of the markets in Europe, than they are.

The quantity of wax which they collect at present, is not very great, as the chief supply of this article came by the way of Constantine, and does not exceed two hundred cantars. This they purchase from the Bedouins, at the price of eight piasters and a half per cantar. They ship this article principally on their own account; as the very high price of 280 piasters, which they demand, will seldom answer any speculator to Europe. A great quantity, however, is used by the families of the Bey, so that what remains for exportation, must be considerably reduced.

Although wool is an article which belongs to the *appalto*, the company are not allowed to collect it, and the *appalto* in this falls only upon that part which is exported. The Bey formerly permitted the company to lay a duty of four carubs on the cantar of wool,

only when exported; but he has now granted them permission to exact a duty of one piaster per cantar. All wool used in the country, is free of the *appalto*. The company also exact a duty of a few carubs per rotolo, on all the tobacco sold in the country, whether by wholesale, or retail.

This company pays the Bey for the monopoly of the present year, only two hundred thousand piasters; at other times, they have paid to the extent of three hundred thousand. But besides this payment in money, they are obliged to keep the Bey supplied with cloth, for the clothing of his troops, at a price about twenty per cent. less than that at which they can import it, either from France or Malta. They are obliged also to furnish the families of the Bey with wax, at the price they pay for it in the country.

The next *appalto*, or farm, is the monopoly of the necessities of life, and is laid upon beef, bread, vegetables, fruits, &c. From this the Bey draws a still greater profit. He receives this year, no less than

three hundred thousand piasters, which, of course, must fall on all classes of his subjects.

The customs throughout the state are also farmed. This year they have been sold for two hundred and forty thousand piasters. In the preceding year, they rendered three hundred thousand; but as the monopolist is supposed to have lost, he has been allowed them this year, for sixty thousand less.

These are the principal monopolies in the regency of Tunis, from which the Bey draws a portion of his revenue. There are also others of smaller note, which render little to the prince, and are very hurtful to the subject.

CHAP. XXII.

On the Imports of Tunis.

It has generally been observed by those who, from a long residence in Tunis, have the opportunity of knowing, that during these last twenty years, the general commerce of the state, both in exports and in imports, has considerably increased. Exports have augmented one-third, particularly in oil, and imports have increased, it is said, at least one-fourth.

But although this increase may have taken place on the aggregate, when the country enjoys peace, health, and plenty; yet it would be extremely erroneous to affirm this of the commerce of some late years, or of the present period. Famine and pestilence not long since ravaged the country; and scarcely had the people begun to breathe,

when the horrid blast of war was sounded. These unfortunate events, must necessarily have affected the present state of their trade.

In the following part of this chapter, as correct an account as possible, will be attempted to be given of the consumption in Tunis, of European and colonial produce; both in a year of peace, health, and plenty, and in a year like the present, injured by disease, scarcity, and war.

The states of Barbary have, from time immemorial, been supplied by France in the articles which they required. The vicinity of France rendered the intercourse more easy; and enabled the French both to study the taste, and with that versatility of character for which they are so remarkable, to accommodate themselves to all the manners and customs of the Moors.

Cloth.

Cloth was one of the chief articles which the French brought over to Barbary. The state of Tunis alone furnished them with a

good and profitable market for that article. In a propitious year, the consumption of cloth in Tunis, amounted to one hundred and fifty bales, every bale containing twelve pieces of about twenty-eight pikes each.

In the cloths sent to Tunis, the French studied the taste and fancy of the inhabitants, both in the quality of the goods, and in the colours. They also studied their own advantage, in forming the bales of such a size and value, that a buyer, who might otherwise have been induced to ask credit, was able to come forward with cash. Their example in this point ought to be carefully observed in making up articles of every description for Barbary; where the inhabitants are not bound by any sense of honour or duty, and where interest on money is deemed a crime by their religion, and never enforced payment of by their laws.

The cloths principally used in Tunis, are denominated *londrine* and *mahoot*; and the proportion of the consumption betwixt them, may be about two-thirds of the former, and one-third of the latter.

Of londrine, two qualities are used, called *first* and *second*; the quantity used of each, is nearly equal. Londrine of the first quality, should be two pikes and a quarter in width; and the assortment of colours in one bale, should be as follows, *viz.*

Two pieces, colour of dragon's blood.			
Two	do.	do.	scarlet.
Two	do.	do.	deep sky blue.
Two	do.	do.	lemon.
One	do.	do.	dark blue.
One	do.	do.	claret.
Two	do.	do.	bright verdigrise.

The price of this quality of cloth, is, at present, about seven piasters per pike.

The second quality of londrine, should be two pikes and a half wide, and assorted in a bale as follows, *viz.*

Three pieces, scarlet.			
Three	do.	do.	dark sky blue.
One	do.	do.	dark blue.
One	do.	do.	bright gold.

Z

One piece, purple.
Two do. dragon's blood.
One do. violet.

The price of this quality is, at present, six piasters per pike.

Mahoots or cloths of Aix La Chapelle, should be two pikes and one quarter in width, and assorted in the following manner, viz.

Three pieces, dark sky blue.
Two do. scarlet.
One do. lemon.
One do. dark blue.
One do. purple.
One do. coffee.
One do. rose.
Two do. dragon's blood.

The price of this quality of cloth, at present, is about twelve piasters per pike.

Although the colours noted in these observations, are those which are principally

liked, yet it must not be understood, that other colours will not answer; on the contrary, all lively colours are liked by the Moors.

It is observed, that the cloths which come from France, retain their colours to the last; but that those which come from England, fade, whether londrine or mahoot. The French also take the trouble to dress their cloths better, which gives them a better appearance than those of England.

The consumption of cloth in Tunis, at present, does not exceed annually much above sixty bales. The proportion betwixt the kinds, continue the same as before.

British Muslins.

A large portion of the immense quantities of muslins, which were formerly sold at Leghorn, found their way to Barbary. The consumption of muslins in time of peace and prosperity, exceeded twenty thousand pieces annually.

The war with Algiers, has materially injured the muslin trade in the state of Tunis, as considerable quantities of that article were carried off by the caravans, which departed monthly for Constantine. The consumption, at present, is not more than one-half of what it was formerly.

The muslins which best suit the market of Tunis, are those of the lowest prices; such as coarse yard-wide, and yard and half wide jacconets; coarse striped low priced lappet muslins, with white, red, or blue, whip; also $\frac{1}{4}$ coarse pullicate handkerchiefs. When the colours are mixed, red, blue, or white, serve best; but even blue grounds are saleable.

These articles, till very lately, have yielded from one hundred to one hundred and fifty per cent. profit on the prices at which they were bought in Britain. But now such quantities are sent from Malta, that it is greatly reduced, though still it is considerable.

Very few Manchester goods are saleable. A very few boxes of low dimities, a few pieces of jeans, and, perhaps, some boxes of yellow striped gingham, might be sold; but the speculation would be hazardous.

Linen.

The consumption of Irish linen in Tunis, formerly amounted to about fifty cases in one year; now it does not exceed twenty.

Irish linen for Tunis, must be of the coarsest sort. This serves two purposes: first, the merchant draws his bounty in England; and next, he insures himself a better profit. For the Moors are by no means competent judges of the quality of linen; and will seldom pay more than from thirty to thirty-five piasters per piece.

In making up the cases, it ought to be observed, that forty pieces are sufficient for one case.

Coarse German linens are also consumed to some extent in Tunis; but this article, like most others, has decreased to about one-third less than what it was formerly.

At present, about five thousand pieces of platilo, of from 38 to 40 pikes, find sale in the course of the year. Platiloes should be of an ordinary quality, and packed in boxes of one hundred pieces each. The price of this article, varies from twenty-six to thirty-five piasters per piece.

Creas, another kind of German linen, 33½ inches wide, are consumed to a still greater amount. It is computed that eight thousand pieces are sold in one year. They must also be put into cases of one hundred pieces, of about forty-five pikes each. The price runs from forty to forty-five piasters each.

Serges.

Serges, called *imperial serges*, have a tolerable sale in Tunis; and it is computed, that the consumption of them, at present, may amount to four hundred pieces annually.

In making up serges for the market of Tunis, it ought to be observed, that the bale should contain forty pieces of 27 pikes in length, and twenty of 38 pikes. Each piece

should be neatly doubled in width, dressed, and folded in squares. The colours should be the following, *viz.*

Thirteen pieces, scarlet.

Thirteen do. violet.

Fourteen do. dark sky blue.

The price, at present, for serges, is thirty-four piasters for the short, and forty-five for the long, pieces.

Druggets.

The present annual consumption of druggets in Tunis, is computed at four hundred pieces, of forty pikes. The colours which best suit the market, assorted in each bale, are,

Thirteen pieces, scarlet.

Thirteen do. dark green.

Seven do. dark sky blue.

Seven do. dark violet.

Each piece should be neatly folded and dressed: the price is about thirty-two piasters for each piece of 40 pikes.

In this article, as well as in serges, a *few* bright colours would do well; but those noted, are at all times most current.

Coffee.

Coffee of Martinique, is now more generally used in Tunis than that of Mocca, on account of a law in force in the country, enjoining, that "Turks alone shall sell *Mocca* coffee." The consumption of Martinique coffee, at present, amounts to nearly fifteen hundred cantars per annum; and the price is from eighty-five to ninety piasters per cantar. At other times, the quantity consumed, amounts to nearly three times more than at present; as many of the Greeks, and others, from the Levant, who bring silk, &c. to Tunis, take off a quantity of coffee in return.

Coffee for the market of Tunis, should be packed in barrels, of from three to four cantars each. This has a wonderful effect in facilitating sales, and shortens the credit, if any be necessary to be given. It is the mode also best adapted for transportation in the interior, where the coffee is carried on the backs of animals.

Sugar.

The quantity of sugar consumed, amounts, at present, to two thousand cantars annually. In years of plenty, it is nearly three times that amount.

The quality of sugar which is most current, is that of the Havannah; in cases of from three to four cantars each.

Sugar, in loaves of three lbs. finds a small sale. In the above-mentioned quantity, perhaps one-tenth part may be in loaves. This also must be put up in small packages, of from three to four cantars each. The price of the best raw sugar, at present, is from sixty to sixty-five piasters; and that of loaf, from one hundred and ten, to one hundred and fifteen piasters per cantar. Quantities of sugar are also taken to the Levant, in time of peace; and considerable quantities of this article, as well as of coffee, are carried by the caravans to Constantine.

Spices.

All kinds of spices find a limited sale in Tunis. Of all-spice, or pimento, the present consumption is about five hundred cantars annually; of cloves, about one hundred cantars; of nutmegs, twenty cantars; and of cinnamon, about thirty cantars.

Alum.

A large quantity of alum is annually required for the use of the manufactures. At present, one thousand cantars are consumed. Alum of the Levant is preferred; but both rock alum, and that which they call English alum, finds, notwithstanding, a ready market in moderate quantities.

Vitriol.

Vitriol is also much used; but though the quantity consumed may be considerable, yet the price is so miserably low, that it would not be advisable to bring it into the market. That kind of vitriol which is called copperas, is chiefly used.

Tin.

In all the Turkish provinces, great use is made of tin, both for their money, and for the lining of their kitchen utensils; but in Tunis, the consumption is very small, not exceeding, at present, two hundred cantars of tin in bars, and about two hundred pair of boxes of tin in plates, each year. Even in the days of prosperity, the consumption is, perhaps, not more than double that quantity. The small consumption of this article, is, perhaps, owing to the general use of earthen vessels in the cooking of their victuals. The present price of tin in bars, is from one hundred and thirty to one hundred and forty piasters per cantar; and of tin plates, about seventy-five piasters per box of one hundred and twenty-five sheets.

Lead.

Lead is consumed to the amount of five hundred cantars per annum. The English is preferred to any other. The price is, at present, about forty piasters per cantar. As the quantity consumed during war, must

exceed that in time of peace, it may be presumed, that it is greater at present than in the days of prosperity.

Iron.

Swedish iron is consumed to the amount of fifteen hundred cantars annually. The price, at present, is from twenty to twenty-two piasters per cantar.

Silk.

Raw silk, in the days of peace and prosperity, was brought to Tunis every year, to the amount of two hundred bales, each weighing one cantar. The quantity at present imported, does not exceed sixty bales; but this does not proceed so much from the want of consumption, as from the difficulty of getting it brought to market. The greatest quantity of raw silk came from the Morea, and the Archipelago. The present price is at nine piasters per rotolo.

Wrought silk of different kinds used to be brought to Tunis from France and Italy, to the amount of two hundred boxes an-

nually; now, hardly one-fourth part of that quantity arrives. Were more imported, it is doubtful whether it would find a market; as great quantities of it were carried off by the caravans of Constantine.

The quality of wrought silk which found the best market, is called *spina di lucca*, or lucca, according to a Scotch expression, *tweeled*. A kind of small handkerchief, of various bright colours, also found a great market; they were chiefly brought from Marseilles and Barcelona. The *fabbrica della gorza* are most esteemed, and are marked with a horse's head.

Spanish Wool.

Spanish wool was at one time, one of the most extensive and most lucrative articles of import at Tunis.

The consumption of wool in the regency, at one time, amounted to no less than three thousand bales of two cantars each; it has now dwindled to about seven hundred. The use made of this wool, as before mentioned,

is for the cap manufacture, so famous in the country, and the reasons of the decline of its consumption, have already been stated.

The proportions in which Spanish wool is imported, are two-thirds of the finest, and one of the second quality, called *fioretto*.

The price of Spanish wool, as has been mentioned in a preceding chapter, is fixed annually by the Bey. This year he has fixed it at five hundred piasters per cantar, on account of the great difficulty in obtaining it. In former times, the price was from three hundred and fifty to four hundred piasters.

Wine.

One thousand pipes of wine are annually drank in Tunis; a quantity more than might be expected in a Mahometan country, where there are so few Christians. It is nevertheless true; for many of the Moors drink wine, though contrary to their law.

French wine is most generally drank; and as strong wines are heating, it seems best

adapted to the climate. Some wine is also imported from Sardinia, Spain, and Sicily; but French wine is at all times preferred.

It is contrary to the law of the Mussulman, to admit wine into his country, but the thirst of gain causes him to forget his religion. The Bey freely grants his *tescare* for the introduction of it, under the pretence that it is vinegar which is imported.

Spirits.

The quantity of rum and brandy used annually, is very trifling. It is doubtful whether even three puncheons of rum, and double that quantity of brandy, could be sold in the course of a year.

Earthen Ware.

It has been erroneously stated, that the coast of Barbary offered a great market for earthen ware. In the whole regency of Tunis, not more than fifty crates could be sold annually. They must consist entirely of round plates, one quarter being soup plates, and the remainder common and desert plates, about equally divided.

The consumption of earthen ware is among the Christians, and a very few of the better sort of Moors. The generality of the inhabitants use a ware made in the country, which costs them a mere trifle, and equally answers their purpose.

Cutlery.

Formerly a great quantity of cutlery, called in Italian, *chincaglarìa di trieste*, was sold in Tunis. It is said that nearly one hundred boxes were consumed in one year; but at present, not more than twenty can be sold.

This kind of cutlery consists of the most common sort of knives and forks, and pen-knives, such as are prepared in England for the Levant, with gilt handles, &c.

Cochineal.

The consumption of dying materials in Tunis, is considerable. Cochineal, the most valuable of dyes, is, at present, consumed to the extent of nearly seventy cantars per annum; twenty of which are supposed to

be consumed in the regency, and the other fifty to be taken by the caravans of Gdamsia. The subjects of Morocco also carry off a great quantity of cochineal. The consumption of this article, in the days of peace, would not much exceed the present, unless the cap manufacture should resume its former vigour.

The price of cochineal of the first quality, is, at present, reckoned very high, and is from thirty to thirty-five piasters per rotolo. In peace, it has at times been as low as fourteen piasters; but the price of this delicate article is regulated according to the quality.

Gum Lac.

The consumption of gum lac in Tunis, is considerable. It is said to amount, at present, to five hundred cantars annually, and in time of peace, to about one-third more.

This gum is used for dying the bed-covers and other parts of furniture of the Moors and Bedouins. The greater proportion of

it being used in the country, the war does not so much lessen its consumption.

The kind preferred, is that which is black and free from earth. It renders about two hundred piasters per cantar; that which is reddish, seldom renders more than half the price of the black.

Vermilion.

Vermilion berries are much used in the manufacture of caps. It is computed, that the consumption of vermilion will amount, at present, to nearly two hundred and fifty cantars, and during peace, to not less than double that quantity. The kind preferred, is that which comes from Spain, which is supposed to be cleaner, and to give a better colour than any other. The price of it is now at about nine piasters per rotolo. The next in quality, is that imported from the Morea, which, by being mixed with the small branches, does not give so bright a colour. The price of this is, at present, about seven piasters per rotolo. In time of

peace, the consumption of both kinds is greater, and the price much less.

Indigo.

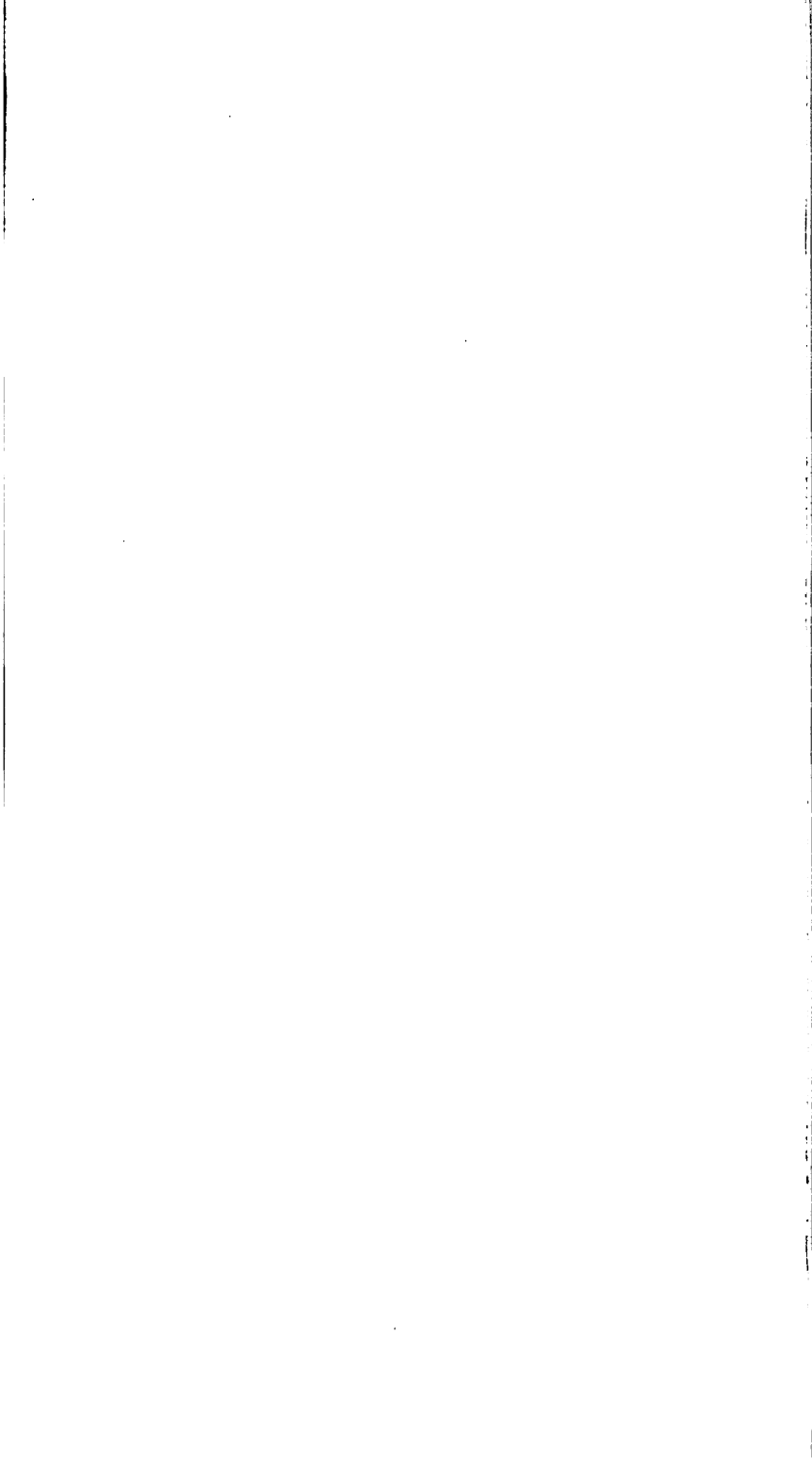
Indigo is raised in the country. The consumption of any other is, therefore, very trifling. The indigo of Tunis, is of a very ordinary quality. It is probably not manufactured with much skill, and by a proper attention, might without doubt be greatly improved.

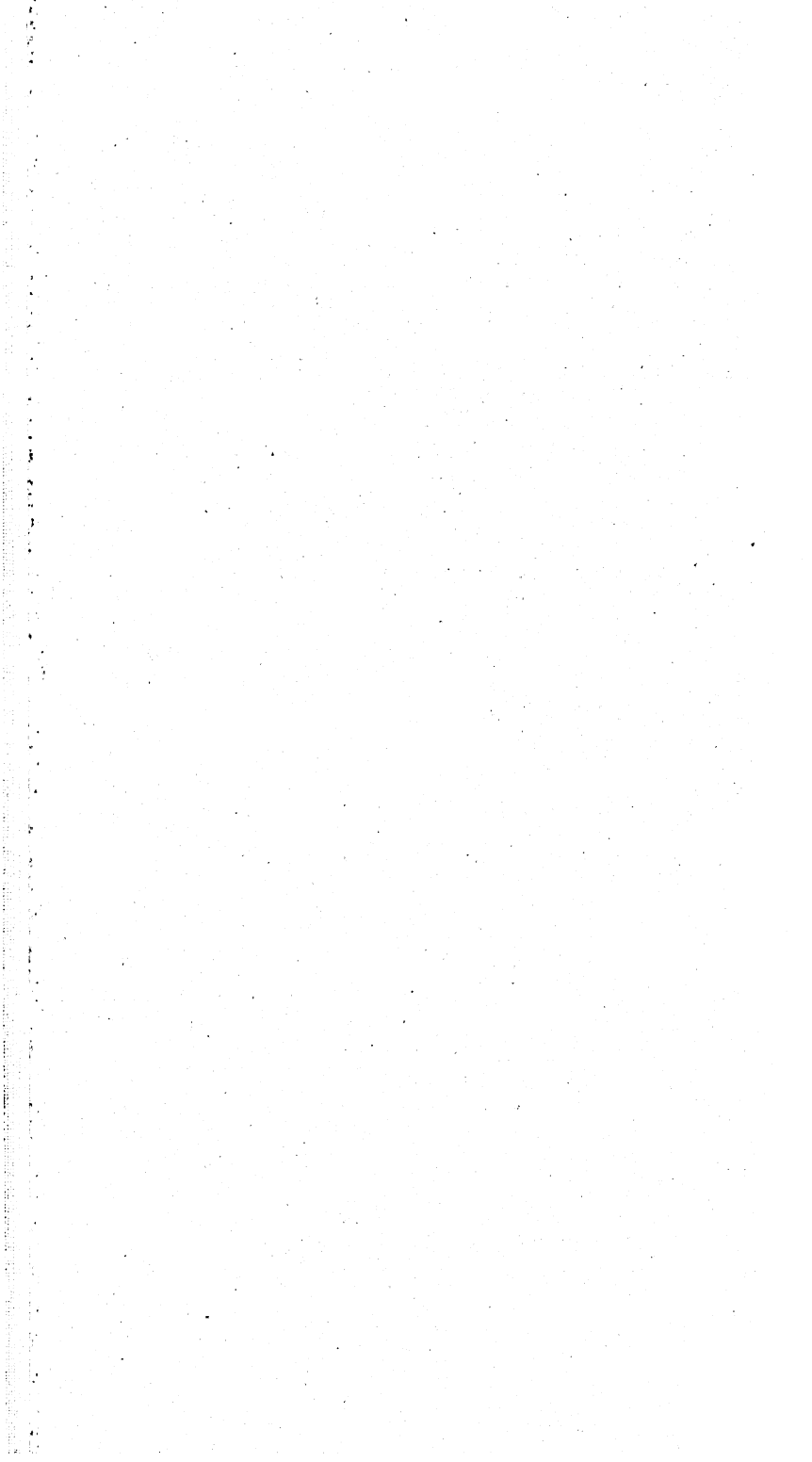
Pernambucco.

The consumption of dye-woods is considerable. The kind which is principally used, is that called *pernambucco*. The amount of it, at present, may be one thousand cantars annually, and during peace, fifteen hundred. Its present price is about one hundred and ten piasters per cantar; but it only renders from seventy to seventy-five, in the time of peace.

*James Hedderwick & Co. }
Printers, Glasgow.*







JAN 26 1935

